

THE TIMES
Monday

Doctor
The rehabilitation of Boris Pasternak (below). Spectrum looks at the chances of Dr Zhivago being published at last in Russia



In the House
In the first of two articles from Ottawa on the Canadian political scene, Ivan Barnes reports on the Liberal Party

Market place
After the failure of the Athens summit, Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, charts the way ahead for the EEC

Up for the Cup
The draw for the Third Round of the FA Cup

Spanish 'pilots' strike threat
Spain's commercial pilots yesterday threatened to strike unless ground radar and proper signal lights are installed at Barajas airport, Madrid, where two jets collided in heavy fog on Wednesday, killing 93 people. No date for a walk-out had been set

Crash inquiry, page 5

Lowest pound
The pound sank further against the dollar, closing at a record low of \$1.4355. The dollar finished at a record high against the French franc and a 10-year high against the Deutsche mark

Page 21

Exam report
Social class differences are the main reason for wide variations in children's examination results, an "experimental" Department of Education report says

Page 3

Prior mourns
Two thousand mourners, including Mr James Prior, attended a funeral service for Mr Edgar Graham, the Official Unionist politician murdered by the IRA

Page 2

Sex Bill lost
The Sex Equality Bill, a private member's measure designed to increase women's rights, was defeated in the Commons by 198 votes to 118. The public gallery had been crowded with women

Parliament, page 4

Gold in favour
The sharp recovery in the gold price has turned unit trust investors' attention to the bullion market

Faithful Money, page 25

Rumasa ruling
Spain's Constitutional Court has approved the Government takeover of the Rumasa group, the country's biggest private business empire, last February

Page 4

Carrington post
Lord Carrington, whose appointment as Nato Secretary-General was announced yesterday, urged people in a radio interview not to be too gloomy about world affairs

Page 6

'Gang' death
Mr Zhang Chunqiao, a member of the so-called Gang of Four, has died in prison in China. He was reported to have been suffering from cancer

Page 5

Golden mile
Robert Sangster, the racehorse owner-breeder, has put up £100,000 for next year's Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, making it the most valuable mile race in Europe

Page 28

Leader page, 9

Letters: On Bangladesh, from Mr Peter Shore, MP, and others; NHS, from Mr B. H. Cummins; tribunals, from Dr P. Kay, and Mrs E. M. M. Goriely

Leading articles: Britain and Argentina; Namibia

Features, page 8: Armageddon out of focus; Moscow's moles and the 'Nazi spy'; The good, the bad and the eminent

Obituary, page 10: Lieut-Colonel Lyndall Urwick; Eric Fraser, Sir John Campbell

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NGA faces weekend of decision after £525,000 fines

● The National Graphical Association was fined a total of £525,000 yesterday for contempt of court in picketing the Stockport Messenger printing plant
● Mr Justice Eastham said at the High Court in Manchester that the union's main objective was "to use its muscle to try to destroy the business" of Mr Shah
● Four days of talks at the offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service ended yesterday with the NGA and Mr Shah as far apart as ever (Page 2)
● If the contempt fine brings a printing strike many regional and local newspapers could weather it by using non-union labour and new technology (Page 2)

By Paul Routledge and David Felton

Industrial action on a national scale in the newspaper and printing industry came much closer after fines totalling £525,000 were imposed yesterday on the National Graphical Association for contempt of court orders made under the Government's trade union legislation.

The fines ordered by Mr Justice Eastham in the High Court in Manchester are the biggest cash penalty ever levied by a British court and the money will be recovered from assets frozen by an earlier judgment of the court.

Leaders of the NGA met in Bedford today to discuss the next step in their defiance of the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts and the orders made to cease picketing the Warrington, Cheshire, plant of Messenger Group newspapers.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the craft print union, said early yesterday after the breakdown of peace talks with Mr Selim ("Eddie") Shah that a national strike beginning next week was now a "very real possibility" and further mass picketing at Warrington is also expected.

Fleet Street will be the first to be hit by a conference during working hours called on Monday by fathers of the national newspaper NGA chapels (office branches) who were "outraged" by the latest fines. One said that the consequences of the court's action would be "down to Mr Shah".

Fleet Street printers are already under a High Court injunction not to disrupt production over the Messenger closed shop dispute.

TUC leaders, who are divided in their support for the NGA's continuing defiance of the Government's labour laws, have been called to an emergency meeting of the employment policy and organization committee on Monday night, and behind-the-scenes moves to forestall a national strike are likely.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary for Trade and Industry and author of the 1982 Employment Act, yesterday urged caution. "It would be wise if everybody concerned took a long deep breath, especially in Fleet Street, and if the union members concerned consider very deeply whether they wish to close down some of the newspapers forever, over what is really a very small dispute in which some people are being required to join a union which they do not wish to join."

"The Government cannot prevent a strike. If people want to go on strike there is nothing we can do. But they will have to take into consideration the consequences which will flow from it." His remarks indicate clearly that the Government will not heed Opposition pleas to intervene in the dispute.

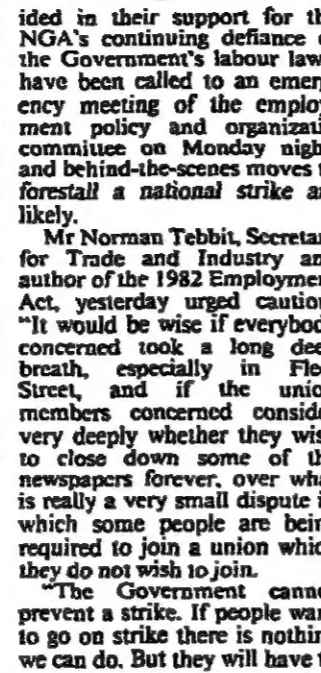
Imposing the fines, Mr Justice Eastham accused the NGA of using its muscle to try to destroy the business of Mr Shah. Referring to the scenes of violent picketing that took place last week, he said: "Any law-abiding citizen would have been shocked that any such thing could have happened in England and should take place at the instigation of union leaders responsible for their members."

The conduct of the union on four nights in the last two weeks since the order to cease picketing amounted to "blatant, deliberate breaches of the order and a very serious contempt of court", the judge said. He had twice warned the NGA that it risked fines of increasing severity for earlier fines of £50,000 and £100,000.

The union has now been fined a total of £525,000 for contempt, and its entire assets of more than £10m are in the hands of court-appointed sequestrators.

Mr Shah said after the hearing: "These amounts of money means nothing to me. It is between the union and the court. All the NGA has to do is obey the law. I assume that they are going to escalate the dispute once again."

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'NGA's objective was to destroy Shah's business by force'

Fining the National Graphical Association £525,000 for contempt of court in the *Stockport Messenger* dispute, Mr Justice Eastham said in the High Court in Manchester that the union's principal objective was to use its muscle and try to destroy the business of the *Messenger's* owner, Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah, by force.

The fines were for two separate contempt of court when the NGA unlawfully picketed Mr Shah's printing plant at Warrington between November 22 and November 24, and between November 29 and December 1.

The judge fined the union £150,000 for the first contempt and £375,000 for the second. He told the union: "It gives courts absolutely no pleasure to inflict these fines because the funds of the union are contributed by members in small amounts, no doubt, and obviously a great many members of this trade union are perfectly law-abiding, responsible citizens."

"Their funds have been put in jeopardy because of the continued defiance by the leaders of this union to a plain order of the court which they were prepared to flout because they wanted to smash the business of this company."

"The principal objective of the defendant association was to use its muscle to try and destroy the business of the plaintiff company by force."

He said that the NGA national organizer, Mr George Jerrom, had admitted that he was taking the attitude that nothing should get into the Warrington premises and nothing should get out.

The whole tenor of the evidence shows that whether

they were linking arms or tying themselves together, the so-called pickets were doing their utmost to bring Mr Shah and his company to heel by preventing vans carrying newspapers to leave the premises."

Referring to the incidents on the second week, the judge said: "Any law-abiding citizen would have been shocked that any such thing could have happened in England and should take place at the instigation of union leaders responsible to their members."

"They succeeded in drumming up a demonstration which got over 4,000 people, when inside there were only 10."

He said that NGA counsel could appeal against the fines. "If you do not appeal the fines will be paid out of the funds the sequestrators have already."

Mr Terence Rigby, for the NGA, said that the union would be asking for some sequestrated funds to be made available for pensions and sickness and unemployment benefits.

But Mr Justice Eastham said: "There is a good deal of force in what you say but how can I possibly trust the executive of this union when they use their funds totally in breach of the injunctions."

"I have not much confidence in the executive of your union honouring their word."

He reminded all sides that the terms of an injunction granted on October 14 were that the NGA, whether by itself,

servants or agents or otherwise, be restrained from inducing, or attempting to induce, any of its members or any other than those employed by the plaintiff or its associated companies to refuse to do or disrupt the work in connection with its goods or service."

That covered all unlawful picketing at the Warrington plant, the judge said.

"It is absolutely plain that quite deliberately, and in breach of that injunction, the defendants have induced or attempted to induce enormous demonstrations outside the premises."

The judge said that when he first fined the union £50,000 he had given a warning that if it continued to defy the law it could expect "ever-increasing fines mounting in severity."

He had originally declined to impose a sequestration because he wanted the NGA officers to "reflect as to whether they really did wish to defy the law to this point."

He said that the union continued to defy the law and was fined a further £100,000. "I again warned them that if they continued to defy the law they could expect fines of increased severity."

"In deciding what I should do I tried and I hope successfully, to put out of my mind what I personally saw on television"



Mr Justice Eastham: "Cannot trust union."

and confine myself solely to the more prosaic accounts set out in the affidavits of Mr Shah and Mr Jerrom. "There was an undoubted escalation by the NGA in the first week when they were drumming up this demonstration contrary to the terms of the injunction."

"They succeeded in getting no less than 500 people demonstrating outside the plant."

"One only has to contrast that with the 12-14 workers inside, including Mr Shah and the six security men with their two dogs."

"Peaceful demonstrating was what was claimed to be happening but I have seldom known of premises which have had to have windows boarded up and security guards with dogs inside merely to compete with a peaceful demonstration."

"I have no hesitation in accepting the evidence of Mr Shah, who has always been very careful in all his affidavits to give a restrained account. He is not given to exaggeration."

Mr Justice Eastham said the events of the next week were far more serious. It had been asserted that the defendants used a van equipped with loudspeakers to incite the demonstrators.

The next hearing at the High Court in Manchester will be on Wednesday, when the NGA's assets will be further examined in relation to the sequestration order.

The hearing will consider the location of stocks and shares, union contributions, and cash held by the Bank of Ireland.

Mr Justice Eastham made an injunction until next Wednesday restraining the union from disposing of money held by the Bank of Ireland.

Courts face flood of injunctions

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A rash of injunctions similar to those brought against the National Graphical Association by Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah, could flood the courts if the union seeks to spread the *Stockport Messenger* dispute.

Such actions would be in addition to any further proceedings in the High Court in Manchester at the instigation of Mr Shah. An emergency meeting of the union's national council today will tell that the union could be fined out of existence or its leaders imprisoned.

The last option was being ruled out by most employment law specialists last night. They pointed to the political implications of creating a repeat of the "Pentonville Five" case.

Five dockers were committed to prison in July, 1972, by the National Industrial Relations Court for contempt of an order prohibiting "blackening" of a cold storage depot in east London. They were released after the intervention of the Official Solicitor.

Mr Joe Wade, the NGA's general secretary, has said that he does not believe the Government wants to see the imprisonment of the "NGA 45" - a reference to the national council of 40 and top officials.

There is no clearly defined path for future action by the courts because the union is being dealt with by Mr Justice Eastham under the contempt laws which provide the judge with complete freedom of action. However, any further union appearances have to be on the basis of a complaint from Mr Shah.

The vehicle has mainly been Mr James Prior's Employment Act, 1980, which made unlawful secondary industrial action and

Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Act, 1982, has also been brought into play. That Act laid union funds open to civil claim for damages where a union was adjudged to have lost immunity from action because of acting outside the 1980 Act.

But the fines have been imposed on the union under the contempt laws for its defiance of the main injunction.

Mr Justice Eastham appears to be roughly doubling the fine on the union at each appearance for contempt of court. It is believed that this could continue until the sequestrators have little or none of the union's £11m assets left to hand over to the court.

That would lead to the union going out of existence and it could no longer be said to be in contempt of court. But the legal implications for the NGA are wider.

The union has been served with writs seeking damages totalling £3m by 12 national newspapers.

More disruption of Fleet Street would almost certainly persuade most of the national newspaper proprietors to seek to have the union held in contempt for breaching injunctions restraining it from taking action in Fleet Street as part of the *Stockport Messenger* dispute.

Times Newspapers Ltd (publishers of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*) and News Group Newspapers Ltd (publishers of *The Sun* and *The News of the World*) were last night granted similar injunctions against the NGA. The orders were made by Mr Justice Cantley in the High Court in London, and brought the companies into line with other Fleet Street newspapers.

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"Undoubtedly if the NGA action goes ahead it will do damage. We hope that the union will abide by the national agreements we have negotiated."

Local weekly and daily newspapers have faced increased competition for a share of the advertising cake.

The NGA dispute has also temporarily halted meetings on

Acas talks ended in arena of mistrust

By Our Labour Correspondent

More than 32 hours of talks at the offices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) ended early yesterday with The National Graphical Association and Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah as far apart as when they started four days earlier.

It was one of the more unusual conciliations that Acas has had to perform, in the words of one official "not one of our happiest experiences", because neither side holds any trust for the other. The result was that out of the hours they spent in the service's London offices, they met face to face for less than an hour in total.

The deep mistrust shared for each other by Mr Shah and the NGA resulted in much of the proceedings being conducted through written notes being carried between meeting rooms by Acas officials. In the end there was agreement on one thing, - that a settlement had foundered on the issue of principle of the closed shop.

Although union negotiators expressed anger at Mr Shah's refusal to renounce the six typewriters he dismissed in July, the main sticking point was the union's insistence that there should be a post-entry closed shop covering production staff at the *Messenger* Group of Newspapers' premises at Bury and Warrington.

Union officials' arguments had been that Mr Shah had conceded the principle of a post-entry closed shop during the first round of Acas talks in London on November 28. Mr Shah countered that his offer was withdrawn because the violent picketing of last week had persuaded his employees that they did not now want a closed shop, or to belong to the union.

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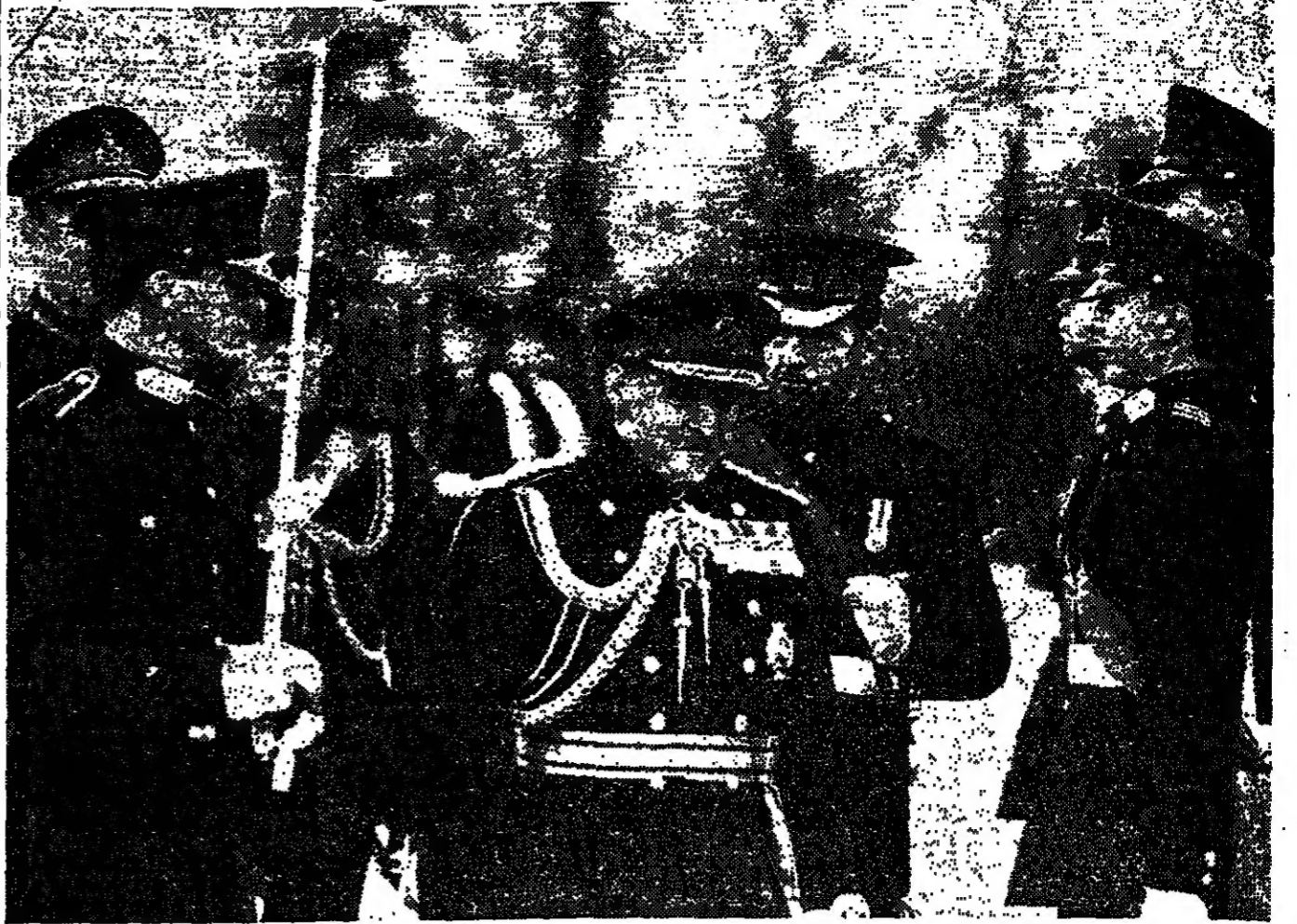
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Parading at Sandhurst for the last time



Military inspection: General Sir Frank Kitson, Commander in Chief United Kingdom Land Forces, reviewing the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst yesterday. The Sword of Honour was awarded to Junior Under Officer Richard Mitchell. (Photograph Harry Kerr)

Censorship 'necessary' in full war

By Peter Hennessy

The Beach committee on censorship in war has concluded that a voluntary system is the best solution for a conflict such as that fought in the Falklands. But complete censorship of press and broadcasting would be necessary and justified in a full-scale war, it says.

The committee, known officially as the Study Group on Censorship, was established by the Ministry of Defence under the chairmanship of General Sir Hugh Beach, former Master of the Ordnance, in the aftermath of the conflict in the South Atlantic.

It had no illusions about the difficulty of recreating in future a censorship system as tight and as effective as that operated by the Ministry of Information and the service departments in the Second World War.

New technologies, such as electronic news-gathering, meant that total control would be impossible. Whitehall's best hope, the committee reckoned, was to try in advance to get an agreement on censorship with the newspaper and broadcasting organizations.

For small conflicts, fully fledged censorship is deemed impossible and undesirable. The existing, voluntary D-notice system was the best way of handling the media.

The report of the Beach committee whose membership included Mr David Holmes, former political editor of the BBC, and Mr Harry Chapman, Pincher, former defence correspondent of the *Daily Express*, is expected to be published next week.

Coal board announces 3 pit closures

The National Coal Board is to close two pits in Leicestershire and Derbyshire, next Friday, and a third will end production in seven weeks. About 300 men remain at the Salsburgh colliery at Coalville, Leicestershire which is closing due to coal exhaustion. The board said yesterday: "There are no compulsory redundancies. The men are either taking voluntary retirement or are transferring to pits in Leicestershire, South Derbyshire or Warwickshire."

In Derbyshire, Pleasley colliery's remaining coal will be worked from Shirebrook colliery near by.

Some of the 360 men are being transferred to Shirebrook and to other pits in the area. The Pleasley site will eventually be levelled.

The Desford colliery, Leicestershire, is due to close by February 10.

2,000 attend funeral of IRA victim

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The murder of the Official Unionist politician, Mr Edgar Graham, was described as an "obscenity in the face of God" by the Presbyterian minister who baptized him and yesterday conducted his funeral service at Randalstown, co Antrim.

Two thousand mourners attended the service for Mr Graham, aged 29, who was shot dead by the Provisional IRA. Among those attending were Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and leading members of all political parties in Ulster except Provisional Sinn Féin.

Leading judicial and academic figures were also among the mourners at the Old Congregation Presbyterian Church where Mr Graham, a law lecturer, had worshipped as a boy and where seven members of his family still sing in the choir.

The family had requested the minimum of publicity because that had been Mr Graham's wish during discussions he had had about funeral arrangements with his father some months ago.

The Rev Alan McAlooney, minister of the church, said Mr Graham had been seen as an outstanding potential leader but "this was a hope not to be fulfilled" and a life that had so much to offer to the country had been given so little time.

Mr Graham had not been afraid to speak the truth as he saw it "despite the risks he knew he was running and those risks were considerable. He condemned violence in every form and it was that shameful violence that took his life. He has paid a heavy price for his honesty, open mindedness, fairness and fearlessness."

The minister told the dead man's grieving mother, father and sister that there were no words left to describe the feelings of revulsion at his savage murder but he warned that the greatest danger was that people would allow themselves to be swept by a wave of despair. It was too easy to lose heart and say that the God-fearing people of Ulster had lost their cause.

But it was the Christian faith which would enable people to hold their heads up

Air crash inquiry launched

By David Cross

Aviation crash experts from the Ministry of Transport were set last night to begin investigating the disappearance of an executive jet into the sea with 10 people on board on Thursday night.

The two-man crew and eight passengers, including two senior air force officers, one of them French, as well as two small children, four bodies have been found; the other six are missing presumed dead.

The plane, a Cessna Conquest, which belonged to Mr Michael Carlton, a finance and property millionaire, was last seen flying at 400ft on radar screens about 10 miles south-west of Stornoway in the Hebrides on 5.46 p.m. on Thursday night. The Ministry said yesterday that no distress signal had been received from



General Henri Gimbart (left) and Air Commodore John Parker (right), victims of the air crash and Mr Michael Carlton (centre).

the aircraft during its flight from Paris via Liverpool.

Mr Carlton said yesterday that the weather had been good. Passengers on the two aircraft were on their way to a weekend of pheasant shooting at the 12,300 acre estate owned by Mr Carlton at Garmahine in the west of the Isle of Lewis.

The bodies recovered include that of Mrs Jill Parker, the wife of Air Commodore John Parker, from Rushington, Lincolnshire, director of the Royal Air Force's quartering depart-

Guideline on hospitality for doctors

By Nicholas Timmins

Doctors who want to accept drug company-financed visits to conferences will need permission from their employing authority in future, under proposals issued yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services.

The draft guidelines on accepting funding, gifts and hospitality from drug companies and other national health service suppliers and contractors apply to all NHS staff.

They follow what the Department of Health describes as an increase in promotional and other offers to NHS staff in recent years and "new forms of inducement".

The authorities should be satisfied that any trip for which subsidized travel or accommodation is offered is confined to bona fide medical, educational, scientific or technical purposes, the guidance says. A "reasonable limit" should be put on recreation time, and funding should be limited to the participant himself.

Many local papers could weather all-out strike

By Kenneth Gosling

A "substantial" number of Britain's 1,100 regional and local newspapers could weather a printing strike in 1980 when between 25 and 30 continued to publish.

But against this is the prospect that some newspapers, according to the Newspaper Society which represents regional and local publishers, would not be able to continue at all if a stoppage became prolonged.

The society said yesterday: "We are innocent bystanders in a dispute not of our making over which we have no control

whatsoever. A strike could have a serious effect on our members who are at present trading unsatisfactorily."

"Undoubtedly if the NGA action goes ahead it will do damage. We hope that the union will abide by the national agreements we have negotiated."

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Sale room Pastel fetches £104,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A self-portrait in pastel by Chardin, the great French eighteenth-century realist, sold for 1.25m francs (estimate 1.2m to 1.5m francs) or £104,177 in an Andap sale in Paris on Thursday.

The pastel originally belonged to the artist's brother, Juste Chardin. It is one of a group of pastels of his family that Chardin executed in the last years of his life in almost identical self-portraits in the Louvre. The purchaser was an unnamed American.

The Andap sale also contained a large grisaille and ink preparatory sketch by Francois Andre Vincent for the painting of "La bataille des Pyramides" commissioned by Lucien Bonaparte in 1800 at the request of his brother. The painting itself has disappeared. The study sold for 580,000 francs or £48,533. A very fine Louis XV set of sofa and 12 matching fauteuils made 2.12m francs (estimate 700,000 francs or £176,667).

The sale of French furniture from the collection of Paul Wallraf at Sotheby did not match these levels but an ornate nineteenth-century Boulle commode made £37,400 (estimate £28,000 to £12,000). It is stamped Henry Dasson 1881.

In New York on Thursday Sotheby's scored a series of auction records for American nineteenth-century artists, including \$660,000 (estimate \$400,000 to \$600,000) for a 1863 oil by William Sydney Mount's "A Fish Today" and \$594,000 (estimate \$500,000 to \$750,000) for John Frederick Kensett's "Eagle Cliff, Coast of Massachusetts". The study sold for 580,000

Ribli requests delay after heavy defeats

By Harry Golombek Chess Correspondent

The ninth game in the match between Vassily Smyslov and Zoltan Ribli in the Acorn Computers World Championship semi-finals which was due to be played at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, London yesterday, was postponed at Ribli's request.

Ribli, the Hungarian grandmaster, is seriously near to losing the match, which stands at 5-3 in Smyslov's favour with the Russian needing only 1½ more points to win.

Each player is entitled to take one time-out and Ribli is naturally seeking a pause to recover from a number of heavy defeats.

The game is due to be played next Sunday.

Tory poised for second fight in Chesterfield

Mr Nicholas Bourne, a barrister aged 31, has been selected by Chesterfield Conservatives from 100 hopefuls to fight the forthcoming parliamentary by-election.

Mr Bourne, a bachelor from Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, is confident he can alter the political map in what will be the first by-election since Mrs Margaret Thatcher's victory in June.

It will be the second time he has contested the seat. At the last general election he polled 16,118 votes, second to Mr Eric Varley who held the seat for Labour with a majority of 7,763.

Yesterday, Mr Bourne said he was campaigning to be attracting more jobs to the town, where unemployment runs at 12.9 per cent.

Mr Varley is leaving politics to go into industry. The constituency Labour Party will make its choice of candidate next month.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$2.50, Belgium 2.50, Canada \$2.50, Denmark 2.50, France 2.50, Germany 2.50, Greece 2.50, Hong Kong 2.50, India 2.50, Italy 2.50, Japan 2.50, Korea 2.50, Luxembourg 2.50, Malaysia 2.50, Mexico 2.50, Netherlands 2.50, New Zealand 2.50, Norway 2.50, Portugal 2.50, Singapore 2.50, South Africa 2.50, Sweden 2.50, Switzerland 2.50, Taiwan 2.50, Thailand 2.50, United Kingdom 2.50, USA 2.50, West Germany 2.50.

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Social class not spending determines exam results, survey shows

By Phillip Venning

Social class differences rather than spending on secondary schools are the main reason for the wide variations in examination results of the 96 English education authorities, according to an "experimental" report published yesterday by the Department of Education and Science.

The report shows that between two-thirds and three-quarters of the real variations can be explained by social composition. The proportion of middle-class parents was particularly significant in accounting for better A-level results.

But the report says examination results are not wholly suitable measures of performance of all secondary pupils, and they are not a measurement of the school's performance. In the London borough of Newham, a dockland area, which spends £955 per pupil, 24.7 per cent of school-leavers had no examination passes. Statisticians calculated the figure should have been 23.5 per cent.

But in the Conservative-controlled London borough of Sutton, which has grammar schools and which spent £215.3 a head, 7.3 per cent of school-leavers had no passes, instead of the estimated 9.8 per cent.

Although the report admits that its results have to be treated carefully because of difficulties with figures and methods it does show that statistically some local authorities do better and some worse than might be expected after allowance is made for their special advantages and disadvantages.

The Inner London Education Authority, Britain's highest-spending local authority, does less well: just over 40 per cent of pupils passed one or more higher grade O level or CSE compared with 45 per cent that the calculations indicate.

Other authorities below par include Knowsley and Gateshead, while those doing better include Calderdale, Barnet, Harrow, Wigan, North Tyneside, Sunderland, Buckinghamshire and Northumberland.

The figures were reached by working out the importance of factors that could affect examination results.

Those included: proportion of children from different social backgrounds; non-white, receiving free school meals; from one-parent or large families or in poor housing; unemployment, educational spending and population density.

The report shows statistically

that social class is overwhelmingly significant and virtually all the other factors negligible.

These findings will fuel the heated debate about examination results started earlier this year by the National Council for Educational Standards. Its report was criticized by DES statisticians for not taking sufficient account of some of the wider measures of social disadvantage - shown by this new document to be unimportant.

But the DES report is full of statistical caveats. The figures on social class are 12 years old; those on examination results and on spending have weaknesses in the way they were collected.

The Department admits they are faulty and it is trying to improve them.

Particularly suspect, the report says, are its findings suggesting that in some highly-deprived local authorities extra education spending actually produced worse results.

Another possible factor might be the proportion of pupils in independent schools, the report says.

Statistical Bulletin 16/83 Schools Standards and Spending (DES statistics branch).

Mock-Tudor house curb by planners

Council planners have banned the building of any more mock-Tudor houses in the rural commuter area to the north-west of Birmingham-Wolverhampton and the Black Country.

Instead, the planners on South Staffordshire council are challenging architects to produce twentieth century houses to blend with the old rural surroundings of villages, many of which have half-timbered Tudor buildings.

Mr John Perry, the council's planning chief, said yesterday: "You do not get good design and character in a house by nailing planks of wood to the walls. It does not go well with the real thing. We think that it is not beyond the wit of modern architects to come out with designs in brick or in the materials of our time which will blend with the surroundings."

The council's ban has come to light in Penkridge, a village in Staffordshire, where timber-framed, Queen Anne and Georgian houses are preserved. Planning permission has been refused for two expensive mock-Tudor houses and the planning committee is insisting that plans be resubmitted showing houses in ordinary brick.

Mr John Perry said that although his committee did not operate a ban as a matter of policy, the planning department had set its face against mock Tudor houses.

Suzuki gambles on 'world car'

By Clifford Webb
Motoring Correspondent

Suzuki Japan, one of the world's largest motor cycle manufacturers, has joined forces with General Motors of the United States in a £200m gamble to produce a new "world car for the man of the street".

The SA 310 Super Mini will arrive in Britain in two months. A four-seater car, its extreme lightness and three cylinder, one litre aluminium engine are said to give 66 miles a gallon at a steady 56 mph. It has a top speed of about 90 mph and is expected to sell for a little under £4,000.

It is not generally appreciated that, in addition to its motor cycles, Suzuki has been producing ultra-small cars in large numbers for nearly 30 years. It was this "micro car"



Car for the masses: The Suzuki SA310GL

expertise which persuaded GM to take a 5 per cent stake in Suzuki as the preliminary to the development of a small car for the masses which would sell equally well in the developed and under-developed areas of the world. At the moment, it is being built only in Japan.

But the project has run into trouble already. The original plan was to ship 7,000 a month for sale by GM in the United States. However, up to now Suzuki has not sold cars there and, under a recently agreed quota for Japanese exports, it does not have an allocation.

Ban warning to football club over police bill

Sheffield United football club was told yesterday that the public could be banned from its terraces unless a dispute over a £51,000 bill for policing last season.

The warning to the Third Division club was given by Mr George Moores, chairman of South Yorkshire County Council's police committee.

The club is claiming there is no contract with the police and that they have no right to enter their Bramall Lane ground unless invited.

"Banning the public would be the ultimate penalty, but it is United's responsibility."

"If they say they don't want police in the ground action would be taken. It is the clear duty of the chief constable to ensure the safety of the public."

"If they try to play without police, I cannot see the chief constable doing anything other

French milk 'unfit for drinking'

The first consignment of UHT milk from France into Britain has been labelled unfit for human consumption by port authorities.

About 43,000 cartons arrived from France on December 1 and underwent tests at New Haven. Health inspectors said yesterday that the milk was substandard and French Dairy Farmers, the company importing it, would be prosecuted if any was sold.

The company had intended to sell the milk, fresh for six months, at four pence less a pint than British long-life milk and seven pence less than British farm milk.

It is now impounded at the company's Salisbury Depot. Mr Michael Charry, the firm's managing director, has given a written undertaking that no milk will be sold.

Clampdown on use of CB

Holders of the £10 citizens band radio licence will have to be aged at least 14, as from next March, according to changes announced in a Commons written reply yesterday by Mr Alexander Fletcher, an Under Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Children under 14 will be able to use CB only under supervision. Other changes include a ban on playing music and retransmitting radio and television broadcast material.

Kidnap case
William Kelly, aged 40, a painter from Tralee, co Kerry, accused in connexion with the kidnapping of the chain store executive, Mr Don Tidey, more than two weeks ago was granted bail in the High Court in Dublin yesterday.

Rapist jailed
Thomas Swaine, aged 24, of Bransome Road, Didcot, who brutally raped two women, one of them four months pregnant, was jailed for life by Oxford Crown Court yesterday.

106th birthday
Miss Louie Hemington celebrated her 106th birthday with a family party at her home in Kilton, near Boston, Lincolnshire, yesterday.



Respecting tradition: A Norwegian girls' choir singing carols after the thirty-seventh lighting up ceremony of the Norwegian Christmas tree erected in Trafalgar Square.

Apology to detective in Lee case urged

A Court of Appeal judge called on *The Sunday Times* to apologise to Det Supt Ronald Sagar over allegations that he prompted Bruce Lee into confessing to arson.

Lord Justice Ackner said that the criticism of the *Sunday Times* was wholly unwarranted.

His comments came at the end of a judgment on the self-confessed arsonist whose appeal against conviction was partially allowed last week.

Lee, aged 23, who admitted in 1981 that he started 11 blazes in Humberstone between 1973 and 1979 that killed 26 people, was cleared of causing a fire at an old people's home in 1977 in which 11 men died.

But his remaining convictions were upheld, and Lee, formerly of Cavell Place, Hull, remains detained indefinitely in a Merseyside mental hospital to which he was sent on January 20, 1981, by a Leeds Crown Court judge after pleading guilty to arson, and manslaughter through diminished responsibility.

The court was also far from satisfied that Lee did not start the blaze at Wensley Lodge, West Hill, Heston, a Humberstone county council's old people's home.

The *Sunday Times* said yesterday that the call for an apology was under consideration.

Autumn start likely for Lords TV experiment

The experiment in televising the proceedings of the Lords is likely to take place next autumn.

A committee of five peers and one barrister will begin its examination early in the new year of the practicalities of allowing in cameras, after the decisive vote in favour of the principle on Thursday night.

The Lords sound broadcasting committee, which is appointed at the start of each parliamentary session, meets irregularly.

Its last inquiry, in March this year, was over the changed format of the BBC Radio programme *Yesterday in Parliament*.

Jenkin defends discharge into sea at Sellafield

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that there was no case for stopping the discharge of nuclear waste into the Irish Sea from the British Nuclear Fuels plant at Sellafield formerly Windscale in Cumbria.

Speaking to reporters in Workington at the opening of an enterprise zone he denied that there had been any complacency.

The escape of solvent down the pipeline from Sellafield is being investigated. Mr Jenkin said he hoped a report would be published soon.

Social trends: 3 Dramatic rise in owner-occupation

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

The dramatic change in household tenure in the past 30 years is from private tenancy to owner-occupation according to figures in the latest *Social Trends*.

In 1951 only 30 per cent of all homes in the United Kingdom were owner-occupied, but by 1982, the figure had increased to 59 per cent. During the same period the proportion of homes rented from private owners reduced from 52 per cent in 1951 to 12 per cent in 1982.

Homes rented from local authorities or new towns increased from 18 per cent in 1951 to 29 per cent in 1982. The pattern of tenure is not exactly the same throughout the UK. In Scotland, for example, 53 per cent were local authority or new town homes compared with 37 per cent in owner-occupation in 1982.

The research also discloses a different pattern of tenure of households headed by married men compared with other households. Some 63 per cent of married male householders owned their homes outright or with a mortgage of loan in 1982. In contrast, about 67 per cent of households headed by divorced or separated women were in rented accommodation.

Overall the proportions of single householders in the owner-occupied and rented sectors were similar for men and women, although proportionately more of the women were outright owners and local authority tenants. Nearly two-thirds of heads of households aged between 25 and 39 were owner-occupiers, compared with just under a half of heads of households aged 60 or more.

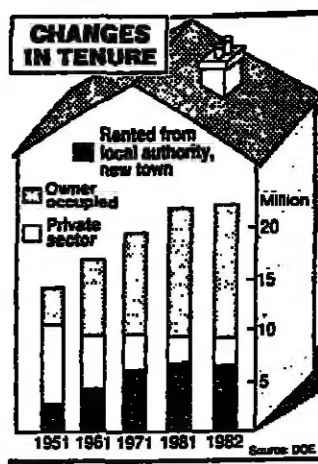
Since the 1960s there has been a marked change in the shares of the public and private sectors in the total numbers of homes newly constructed in the UK. During the 1960s about 41 per cent were local authority dwellings, 5 per cent privately built.

In 1979 these proportions had changed to 32 per cent for local authority, 11 per cent for other public sector and 57 per cent privately built. The change has continued at a greater pace, and in 1982 more than 70 per cent were privately built, with 20 per cent built by local authorities and 9 per cent by other public sector bodies.

The total stock of dwellings in the UK increased by 2.65 million (14 per cent) between 1970 and 1982, after an increase of about 2.5 million between 1960 and 1970. Although the dwelling stock has been increasing, the annual rate of new construction fell by 46 per cent between 1976 and 1982, from 325,000 to 177,000. The drop was largely because of the decline in the public sector, where 53,000 new dwellings were completed in 1982; fewer than one third of the total in 1976.

In the private sector, the number completed fell by a quarter between 1976 and 1981 but increased again by 7 per cent from 116,000 in 1981 to 124,000 in 1982.

Social Trends 14, Central Statistical Office (Stationery, £19.95)
Monday: Crime



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Social Trends 14, Central Statistical Office (Stationery, £19.95)
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Lebrun, Master Vintner of Noilly Prat, has been put under a spell by the Indomitable R. Herring.

R.H.: "You can make me a rich man Lebrun! How can Noilly Prat taste rounded, ... yet dry?"

Lebrun: [Frustrated] "Rare plants, my liege, from 4 continents imbue its crisp white inner with a rounded herbal note..."

Hugo the Cooper [Barging in] "...Did you write this Lebrun? ... 'choice Picpoul and Clairette wines drenched in Mediterranean sun for over a year on pallets of the mellow staves of their numberless casks of oak'...!!"

Hugo [cont.] "...They are not numberless Lebrun, I have to build them! ... you'll be inviting them to our Inner Sanctum next to see our secret herbs!"

R.H. [silly] "...Secret herbs?... Inner Sanctum?... Hum..."

[NEXT: Report Herring penetrates Noilly Prat's Inner Sanctum, designed as an ethereal being]

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The Rumasa affair

Court backs state takeover

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Spain's Socialist Government has won approval from the Constitutional Court for its expropriation of the country's biggest private business empire, the Rumasa group. The courts judgment was made public yesterday.

The verdict was only arrived at after Professor Manuel Garcia Pelayo, the court's President, exercised his casting vote. Six of the 12 members have filed a dissenting judgment, but have upheld the principle that it was necessary for the government to act.

The judgment emphasizes the exceptional condition and significance of the case, holding company created by Señor José María Ruiz Mateos in its justification of the Government's decree of February 23 which nationalized the group's 20 banks, sherry and wine estates, 38 hotels and extensive farmlands.



Minister and financier: Señor Boyer (left) and Señor Ruiz Mateos.

The judgment said that the case was unique and constitutional guarantees for private property had not been infringed as claimed by 54 Opposition MPs in their appeal to the court. "The expropriation measure deals with an extraordinary situation of grave consequence for the community's interests and does not correspond to a scheme of a general nature. It does not authorize fears of an extension of the technique to other situations", a crucial

passage in the judgment reads. Elsewhere, it described the expropriation as a singular act of intervention in an exceptional situation, characterized by risk and with a potential for destabilizing the country's financial system, which required urgent action by the Government.

Señor Miguel Boyer, the Economics Minister, justified the seizure at the time as being needed to stem Rumasa's mounting financial troubles. These represented, he said, the gravest bank crisis Spain had suffered. He said an audit completed last month by a team of 16 international accountancy firms had found that Rumasa's losses exceeded its assets in February by more than £1,100m.

Señor Ruiz Mateos, a financier, aged 53, who has been living in London since March, maintained, however, his group was worth more than £2,380m at the time.

The High Court in London decided to await the constitutional Court's judgment before hearing actions between the state management of Rumasa and Señor Ruiz Mateos concerning the ownership of companies in Britain and elsewhere. The court found that the decree law satisfied all the three constitutional provisions needed.

The six dissenting judges did not disagree with the majority finding of extraordinary and urgent necessity in the Rumasa case. But they argued that the use of a decree-law weakened property rights and guarantees for private property.

The court's judgment means that the Government can now go ahead in the next few months with its promised reprivatization of the various elements of the Rumasa empire. Foreign banks have already expressed interest in the group's Banco Atlántico and also in two of the leading Rioja wine firms which belonged to the group.

US cuts endanger aid fund

By Our Foreign Staff

Doubts have arisen over the future of the International Development Association, the World Bank subsidiary helping the poorest nations, after President Reagan's decision to cut America's annual contribution to \$750m (£525m), the lowest since the mid-1970s.

The association, currently meeting in Paris, provides interest-free loans with up to 50 years to repay to 120 countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. It depends on contributions mainly from

the industrialized countries for its capital.

The US is the largest of the 33 donor countries and has been under pressure for several weeks from other Western nations, including those of the EEC, and World Bank officials, including the president Mr A W Clausen, to increase its contribution.

However, an Administration official said that in determining the amount of America's contribution the President had accepted the "overwhelming

consensus of his Cabinet."

One American voice against popular opinion was that of Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who recommended that the US should put up between \$900m and \$950m.

The meeting in Paris of senior IDA officials will in theory fix the loans budget for the three years from July 1, the seventh replenishment of IDA funds. Negotiations with the other donors ended today. If the US gets its way, total funds will amount to only \$9bn

£5m settles Onassis tax dispute

From Mario Modiano
Athens

Miss Christina Onassis, the shipping heiress, ended her protracted tax dispute with the Greek authorities yesterday when her solicitors handed over a cheque for the equivalent of £5.25m, the balance of a £7.8m claim.

A tax court originally asked her to pay £19m in taxes and fines on the estate of her father, Aristotle. The tribunal rejected her defence that the Onassis property in Greece, including Olympic Airways, was rented from Panamanian companies.

Miss Onassis appealed, but a few days before the case was due to be heard she reached a settlement with the authorities.

It is understood that work will be resumed soon on construction of a model cardiovascular hospital in Athens at a cost of £27m, a gift of the Alexander Onassis Foundation.

Walesa's wife arrives in Oslo

Oslo (Reuter) - Mrs Danuta Walesa, the wife of the banned Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa, arrived here yesterday to receive the Nobel peace prize today on behalf of her husband.

Accompanied by her eldest son, Bogdan, aged 13, Mrs Walesa was greeted at Oslo airport by Mr Egil Aarvik, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

A small police detachment, along with 200 representatives of the world press, stood by at the airport for the arrival of the Walesas, who had flown from Moscow via Copenhagen.

The Nobel ceremony will take place in the old hall of Oslo University. King Olav of Norway, Government ministers and diplomats will attend but no representatives of communist countries were expected.

WARSAW: Mr Walesa hopes to meet a United States envoy in Gdansk this weekend to discuss the prospects of President Reagan lifting sanctions against Poland, informed sources said yesterday (Roger Boyes writes).

Mr Walesa saw his wife and son off at Warsaw airport yesterday. Police sealed off the airport terminal - one official said it was for the safety of the Walesa family, though the suspicion persisted that it was supposed to block a possible Solidarity demonstration - but allowed the former union leader to accompany his wife as far as the passport control.

Aside from Mr Walesa had made clear earlier that the former Solidarity leader would welcome a meeting with Mr John Davis, the US Charge d'Affaires, to talk about his recent policy shift on economic sanctions. He now opposes them.

Third Greek ship hit by Iraqi missile

From Our Own Correspondent, Athens

Another Greek merchant ship, the third in two months, has been hit by Iraqi fire in the Gulf. There was no loss of life. The crew of 12 were rescued by another ship.

The Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine reported that a missile had hit the bulk-carrier Iapetos (16,320 gross tons) some 30 miles from the Iranian

port of Bandar Khomeini.

Iraq announced on Thursday that it had sunk six more ships at the end of the Gulf and repeated its warning to merchant shipping to keep out of what it regards as a war zone.

A spokesman for the Piraeus owners, the Stefanos Stravelakis Shipping Company, said the

Iapetos had loaded steel products in Norway and had called at Immingham on Humber side.

"At the time of the attack she was headed for Bandar Khomeini in a convoy of five ships", the spokesman said. "Four of them were hit by missiles launched by aircraft. He could not, however, identify the missile or the aircraft."

Across the Christian divide

Pope makes history but Lutherans stay defiant

From Peter Nichols
Rome

The struggles of the Reformation will have the palest echoes possible tomorrow night when John Paul II becomes the first pope to cross the threshold of a Lutheran place of worship.

He is going to the church here as a guest at a joint service of prayer and preaching as part of the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther.

The Pope will deliver a sermon, as will the Lutheran Pastor, Dr Christof Mayer. Whatever direct references the Pope makes to Luther (and he may make none) will presumably follow the tone of his respectful letter on the subject, dated October 31, when he drew attention to the strength of Luther's religious fervour while avoiding accusations about the destruction of Christian unity.

Dr Mayer is proving a less than perfect host. In a series of



Dr Mayer: No submission to the Vatican.

He has invited the Bishop of Rome, he says, in the same way that the Roman Catholic Archbishops of Naples and Milan, among others have visited their local Lutheran communities. The difficulty is that the Bishop of Rome happens also to be Pope.

The uneasy reactions of some of the other Protestant churches here to the news of the Pope's visit must also have struck Dr Mayer. From the Vatican's point of view, a low profile is probably seen as the wisest, given the favour lavished on Luther by the East German authorities.

Greater unity between Rome and the Lutherans is still a long way off. Doctrinal discussions have gone well, especially in the United States, since the decision to set up a mixed commission for formal dialogue with the World Lutheran Federation was taken by the two sides in 1967.

There is a growing suspicion

among Italian Protestants about the Pope's ecumenical methods. Pastor Giorgio Girardet, of the Waldensian Church, describes them as "public gestures... to conceal a void".

The key passages in the letter referred to Luther's profound religious feeling, but added: "Clearly the rupture of ecclesiastical unity cannot be reduced to the lack of comprehension by the authorities of the Catholic Church or solely to Luther's lack of understanding of true Catholicism, even if both factors played a part."

Luther stood, and stands, for much of what the Pope opposes most strongly. Apart from Luther's hatred of the Papacy, he favoured a married clergy (and married a nun himself). When considering the bitterness of the insults exchanged between Luther and the pope at the close of the break, it is remarkable that the exchanges even now are at a reasonably friendly level.

Adams defends Grenada invasion

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

The only people who wanted foreign troops to remain on Grenada were the islanders themselves, Mr Tom Adams, the Prime Minister of Barbados, said yesterday.

But he expected the country to return to democratic rule "quite quickly" and even a predictable reaction against the left, following the October coup, would disappear in time.

The military response by the United States and East Caribbean states had been an act of liberation, welcomed by 91 per cent of the people according to a recent poll. It had been an "invasion" only in the sense of the 1944 Normandy landings.

Mr Adams, on his way back from the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Delhi, told the Royal Commonwealth Society in London that the coup in which far left revolutionaries first arrested, then murdered, the Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, and his senior ministers had come "like a series of bolts from the blue".

The initiative for a military response then seemed to have come from the Prime Minister of St Lucia, Mr Michael Pilgrim, who contacted Mr Adams and argued that it was in the interests of the Eastern Caribbean that neighbouring states should intervene and restore law and order. A formal invitation to do so came from the Organization of East Caribbean states which approached not only Barbados, but also Jamaica, Britain and the United States.

The "opinion and approval" of Sir Paul Scoon, Grenada's Governor General, who had become the constitutional authority on the island, was obtained and arrangements made for him to issue a formal invitation to intervene as soon as it was politically safe.

But Mr Adams refused to be drawn on the details of Sir Paul's role in the affair.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan was disappointed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's criticism of the US invasion of Grenada, White House counsel Edwin Meese said (Reuter reports).

Mr Meese, in an interview with news agency reporters, expressed the hope that Mrs Thatcher had received enough information now to understand and support the action.

Mr Reagan said his reasons for sending US troops to Grenada were to protect American medical students and restore democracy.



Mr Adams: Expects quick return to democracy

PARLIAMENT December 9 1983

Sex Equality Bill rejected

COMMONS

A private member's Bill, the Sex Equality Bill, which was designed to improve the rights of women at work and in other areas was rejected in the Commons by 198 votes to 118 - majority against 80.

The Bill's sponsor, Ms Jo Richardson (Barking, Lab), who speaks for the Opposition on women's rights but was speaking from the back benches, said the Bill had the support of a wide variety of organizations, groups and individuals. In case it should be thought that had been dressed up by a lot of trendy feminist groups, she was glad to say that the National Federation of Women's Institutes had offered its support.

Mr Alan Clark, Under Secretary of State for Employment, urging the House to reject the Bill, said it was impractical, expensive and in many respects alien to public opinion.

Ms Richardson moving the second reading said people had become more and more frustrated at an unfair and unwarranted limitation on their rights as individuals, and the continuing domination by men, confirming the traditionally accepted role of women as dependent and inferior. Women, the majority of the population, continued to be discriminated against in a large number of areas.

In reality, women were increasingly the sole breadwinner in the household. There were nearly one million single parent families in the country, almost exclusively headed by women.

Most married women worked and, without their earnings, families in poverty would be three times as many. In spite of the Equal Pay Act, the majority of women did not get equal pay.

A complaint about equal pay made before taking up a job would be made under the Sex Discrimination Act. One made after taking the job would be made under the Equal Pay Act. It was ludicrous not to fuse the two Acts together. This Bill put the two together so the problem of deciding which Act to use would not arise.

The Bill would simplify the legislation and bring in the concept of indirect discrimination. For example, part-time workers would be able for the first time to claim as of right, parity in terms of hourly pay with full-time workers. This in itself would be a big stride towards equal pay for women.

The concept of equal pay for work of equal value was extremely important to hundreds of thousands of women who could not claim it because there were no men in their jobs with whom they could compare their work.

The Government's new regulations on the subject had only been approved by the House of Lords and they did not adequately reflect the decision of the European Court of Justice or the EEC's equal pay directive. The Government has produced unintelligible gobbledegook which would be impossible for women to use in any meaningful way.

The Bill tackled this properly and set out in a simple and constructive way how women could make a



Richardson: Women increasingly the sole breadwinner

claim for equal pay for work of equal value.

There were clubs, including working men's clubs and the post London clubs, which technically opened their doors to both sexes but in practice many of them discriminated against women members. It was said that women ripped up snooker tables, but the point was that men considered snooker a male preserve. It was discrimination and should be outlawed.

Sexual harassment at work ranged from sexist language and explicitly sexist calendars to more threatening exhortations of women being touched up or asked for sexual favours. This was not only deeply offensive but a manifestation of the male domination of society. It was extremely dangerous to the liberty of women that this sort of thing should continue.

Mr Clark said the Bill sought to make many and far reaching amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act. Fundamentally its purpose was to repeal those Acts and replace them.

This Government (he said) believes that the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts are good, sound pieces of legislation. They have fair and realistic objectives and the obligations they impose are one

with which it is practicable to comply.

The Bill did not take account of the practicalities of the real world.

It ignored the fundamental principle that access to jobs must be on the basis of merit, not sex. He did not believe many women wanted to be recruited on the basis of their sex and not on the basis of their ability.

The Sex Discrimination Act tackled a genuine problem of sufficient seriousness to merit legislative intervention. While the Act clearly fell into the category of progressive legislation, it was not too far ahead of public opinion. A number of the Bill's provisions went well beyond what public opinion was prepared to support in this very sensitive field of legislation.

The Equal Opportunities Commission had a statutory duty to review the work of the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts. The Commission intended to bring forward proposals for amendments in the latter half of next year, and the Government would consider them most carefully.

While the Government remained firmly committed to equal opportunity, many of the specific proposals in the Bill were misconceived and taken together they had no option to oppose it.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that the substance of the Labour Party was one of total support for the Bill. The principle behind it - that which the House should not forget - was that discrimination based on sex and sexuality was wrong.

The Equal Pay Act and Sex Discrimination Act has been shown to suffer from important defects. They had been useful and necessary pieces of legislation but were inadequate in some important respects.

Mr Eric Forth (Mid Worcestershire, C), in a maiden speech, said the Bill was attempting to legislate for human behaviour. They were in danger of adding to the behaviour interference industry which already included the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) said he wanted a commitment that the Government would not proceed with its unworkable regulations on equal pay. Its case for the regulations had been torn to tatters in the recent House of Lords debate.

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West, Bromwich West, Lab) said every male chauvinist was some woman's son. If he had grown up to believe that her place was in the kitchen sink she had largely herself to blame.

Britain knew of US arms plan

ARGENTINA

The announcement yesterday by President Reagan that certification of and possible resumption of arms sales to Argentina had not been sprung on the British Government, Mr Raymond Whitney, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement in the Commons.

The Prime Minister had made the British position clear to President Reagan when he had seen him in September and the British Government had been kept informed.

Certification under United States law was not equivalent to arms sales.

Like the President (he said) we have noted and welcomed the return to democracy in Argentina and their progress on human rights. Arms purchase is not one of the priorities of the incoming Government. We have been glad to note that the United States administration will exercise caution about the resumption of major new supplies and will not supply weapons which could be used to attempt any invasion of the Falklands.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, I welcome the moderate and sensible tone of Mr Whitney's comment on this matter. It makes a striking contrast with the excited rhetoric of the Prime Minister a few weeks ago when the spoils of "betrayal and outrage" were being heaped on the British Government.

Coming from her it was difficult to understand because she had authorized British firms to supply German firms with equipment for warships for Argentina and had sold heavy water to Germany knowing that it would be sold for making nuclear weapons and that the Argentine Government had not accepted safeguards over the nuclear process.

The only threat to Argentina, he went on, was from Chile which was ruled by a dictatorship even less agreeable than the Argentine junta and to which the British Government was still supplying weapons which could be used against Argentina.

If the minister wanted to dissuade the Argentine Government from taking advantage of the relaxation of American controls, there was no better way than by placing an immediate embargo on the sale of British arms to Chile.

Mr Whitney: I welcome his condemnation of excited rhetoric and I hope that he will continue to take the attitude of abjuring the excited rhetoric we have heard from him and many Labour MPs in the anti-American postures they have adopted so regularly over past weeks in opposition to all that Mr Healey previously stood for.

The sale of heavy water was nothing to do with the present Government. Arms sales to Chile were examined case by case by Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, once of tone in the statement from that coming from 10 Downing Street. It was a tragedy that the British Government would not be represented at the inauguration of the new Argentine President.

He asked for clarification of the Prime Minister's statement that Argentina had not made a definitive declaration of cessation of hostilities when the new President, in the midst of the Falkland war, had called it an illegitimate war by an illegal regime in a just cause.

That true democracy should be sustained by the House and Mrs Thatcher should drop her hysterical attitude on fortress Falklands.

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North Koreans sentenced to die for Burma bomb murders

Rangoon (Reuters, AP) — The court, which convened on November 22, passed judgment after 30 prosecution witnesses and material evidence were examined.

The Government will decide later when and how the death sentence will be carried out. Death sentences have seldom been carried out in Burma.

The court said the assassination squad acted on the orders of General Kang Chang Su, of North Korea. The assassins stayed in a North Korean diplomat's house in Rangoon after arriving in Burma by boat.

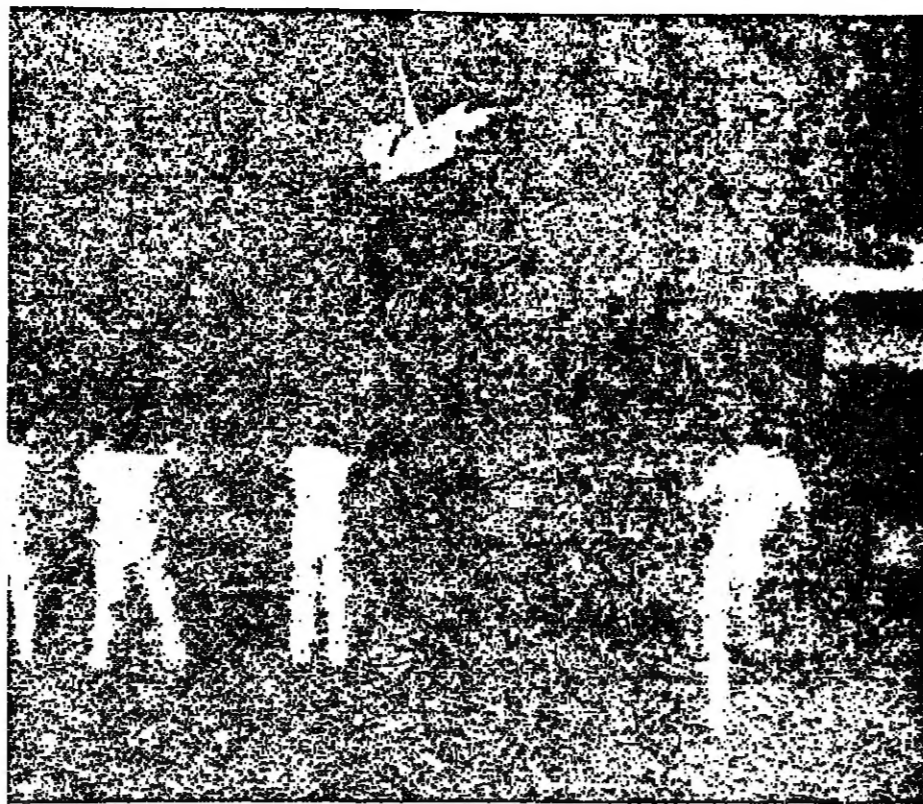
The team planted two Claymore mines and an incendiary bomb in the ceiling of the mausoleum.

President Chun was saved by a traffic delay on the way to the mausoleum. He cancelled the remainder of a six-nation tour of Asia and the Pacific.

The Burmese Government, after conducting its own investigation, last month accused North Korea of responsibility and broke off diplomatic relations. The North Korean Government has denied responsibility.

The court also found the two men guilty of attempted murder and illegal possession of arms, sentencing them to life imprisonment and other jail terms.

Columbia lands safely on a wing and a prayer



Back to earth: Columbia at Edwards Air Force Base after a computer malfunction delayed its return for eight hours.

Investigators began a study of the computers on board the space shuttle Columbia yesterday to find out why two of them failed, delaying the landing by eight hours. (Trevor Fishlock writes from New York).

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) said it would probably take weeks to trace the fault. The first computer shut down when the spacecraft was severely jolted by the firing of rocket thrusters in its nose.

Mr John Young, the commander, said:

"It really hit the vehicle hard". He estimated that the force of the jolt was up to 20 times that of the Earth's gravity.

Back at base he remarked that he had "turned to jelly" when the computer went down, but this was a laconic "right stuff" joke. Mr Young, aged 53, is the most experienced of space travellers, having flown in two Gemini and two Apollo missions. He spent 71 hours on the Moon and flew Columbia on its maiden flight two years ago.

Columbia has four general computers and

one back-up. Any one of these can govern the complex manoeuvres which bring the spacecraft out of orbit and back to Earth.

In extreme emergency a pilot could try to land without the aid of the computer, but it is doubted that a man can react fast enough to carry out all the procedures.

When Columbia's first computer went dead its functions were taken over by the second. A few minutes later this computer failed when thrusters were fired. A third computer took over the navigation. After a while the second machine was restarted but

the trouble struck again when a navigation system failed.

Mission Control in Houston, Texas, wanted to analyse what has happened, fearing that there was a fault which might affect all guidance systems during the critical reentry phase.

As always happens, radio contact was lost during reentry. Mission controllers waited 45 chain-smoking minutes before they heard that Columbia was heading for a text book landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Air official heads crash inquiry

From Harry Debelius Madrid

With the Spanish airline pilots' union demanding the dismissal of the Director of Civil Aviation, the director of Barajas airport, Madrid and other senior officials, after the collision between two airliners at the airport, a sub-director from the same department has been named to head the committee investigating the accident. It was learned here yesterday.

The committee, led by Señor Castano Delgado, the sub-director for Air Transport Control, was expected to get the first technical information yesterday from the "black boxes" of the Aviacos DC9 and the Iberia Boeing 727 which collided on a foggy runway at the airport last Wednesday morning, killing 93 people.

The airline pilots' union argued at a press conference on Thursday that inadequate and improper marking, lighting and signage on the taxiways led the pilot of the DC9 to take a fatal wrong turn, and they put the blame on the administration for not correcting the deficiencies.

However, Señor Enrique Barón, the Minister of Transport and Communications, said the marking and lighting were renovated only a year and a half ago, "with the cooperation of the pilots and in accordance with international standards and regulations."

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Department admitted to a group of journalists on Thursday evening that the airport had no ground radar, but he maintained that it would not have prevented the crash. He estimated the cost of installing such a system at 1 million pesetas (more than £4m).

Islamic states divided over Cyprus Turks

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

A sharp division among the Islamic states meeting here has shown up in their debates over the Turkish Cypriot community's declaration of independence.

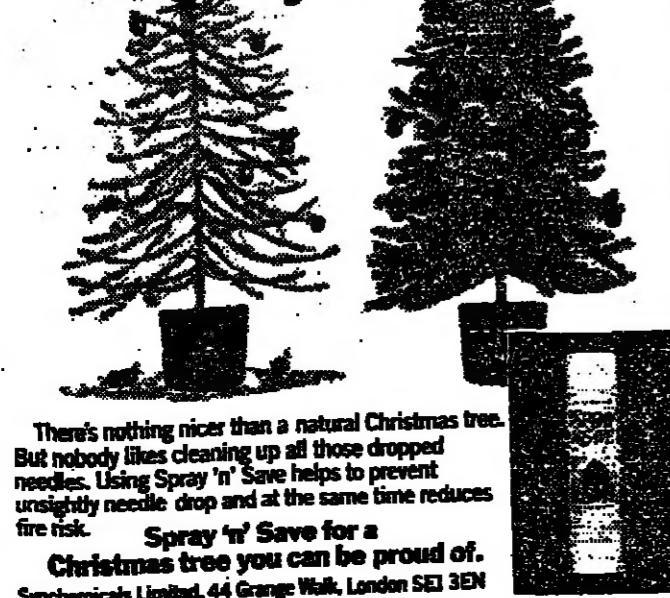
On one side of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference here is a resolution proposed by Pakistan which does not seek to condemn the secession, but which calls for intercommunal talks leading to the establishment of a bi-zonal state.

On the other hand a group of left-wing states, including Syria,

Libya, the Democratic Republic of South Yemen and Algeria, want the resolution to refer to the United Nations resolution, which said the declaration of independence was illegal, called for its withdrawal, and urged all states to refuse recognition.

The Pakistani resolution does not go as far as calling for recognition, even though some states might want it, nor does it offer the Turkish Cypriot state any official status in the Islamic organization.

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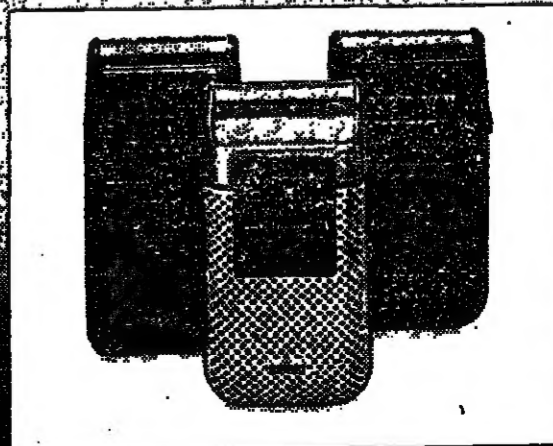
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THE ARTS

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Peter Grimes

Dominion

Self-righteous hypocrisy roused to mass hysteria is even now as potent a force for tragedy as ever it was among the fisher-folk and village worthies of Benjamin Britten's opera, which the Welsh National Opera brought to London for a single performance on Thursday night as part of their week's visit with Amoco sponsorship. Under Richard Armstrong's incisive and often trenchant conducting, it was the chorus and orchestra who chiefly established a vivid musical and theatrical experience.

The Welsh National Opera, which has been a finely shaped character if she had not swallowed quite so many words. Helen Watts made the malignant Widow Sedley a figure of musical menace, and among the other roles the lively singing of Donald Maxwell as Ned Keene and Menai Davies as Auntie was much to be enjoyed.

Opera

Grimes, a defiant Grimes, even a poetic Grimes, yet the complexity remained half-lit.

The production has its inconsistencies. Terence Sharpe, a warmly resolute Captain Balstrode, pointed out the impending storm ("look, the wind is holding back the tide") with his back firmly turned to the sea, and Grimes himself made his last landfall in clear moonlight instead of being partly shrouded by sea-mist as signalled by the desolate fog horn.

His final encounter with the sympathetic Ellen Orford of Josephine Barslow was nevertheless a moving moment and she would have been a finely shaped character if she had not swallowed quite so many words. Helen Watts made the malignant Widow Sedley a figure of musical menace, and among the other roles the lively singing of Donald Maxwell as Ned Keene and Menai Davies as Auntie was much to be enjoyed.

Madam Butterfly

Coliseum

A Butterfly must always be prepared for metamorphosis, but not quite so sudden, perhaps, as that demanded on Thursday of Elizabeth Vaughan. After making herself available just a week ago for Covent Garden's emergency *Madama Butterfly*, replacing the ill-fated *Esclarmonde*, Miss Vaughan as readily flew on to the Coliseum stage at half a day's notice when Eiddwen Harri, the new Butterfly-elect, became ill.

With the chrysalis of *Giocosa* and *Illica*'s Italian still clinging to her rather over-large kimono, she lifted the nearly 10-year-old production (with which she is familiar from visits in spring 1982) to heights which, on this first night, it might not otherwise have reached. In one of her most intense and complete performances, the lapses into Italian were never for one moment a distraction: they both delighted and seemed to heighten the tension of her moments of deepest involvement in the part. When asked by Sharpless what she should do if left alone, what, after all, could be more moving than a chill "morire"?

His partnership with Gaetano Delogu, making his debut with English National Opera, is rather too close for comfort: too



Neil Howlett and Elizabeth Vaughan: thoughtful and intense

often Pinkerton sings to the pit, and too often, particularly in the first act, the pit responds with a similar lack of nuance. The orchestra play well: but the energy, opulence and sheer decibel power Delogu draws from them is frequently at the expense of poise and transience.

Things are better, though, in Act 2, where the restless, charming caricature of this

production, now revived by Malcolm Hunter, has calmed down. Stalwarts like Neil Howlett's thoughtful, stern Sharpless and Anne Marie-Owens's warm Suzuki have time and space to come into their own, and provide, in their reliable way, some of the most satisfying Fuccini singing of the evening.

Hilary Finch

Television

Cornish excess

Farmer's Arms (BBC 2) was billed as a "Cornish 'country and western' comedy", which sounds about as inviting as a "Texan cockney tragedy", and confusion was further compounded by an elliptical directing which gave a clipped and somewhat menacing air to what might have been meant as comic scenes. But the drama was beautifully photographed and its theme - an American nuclear base dominating the values and reactions of a Cornish village - exerted a certain fascination, although, without a strong story to

support a plethora of scenes, that fascination was sometimes stretched to breaking point.

It was, in other words, a good idea which laboured under the disadvantage of being extremely difficult to present convincingly, especially when Mr Colin Welland appeared wearing a sticton. Mr Welland has made a career out of theatrical bluntness, and this was his Cornish version: he played Wally, one of the dignitaries of the village to which some of the US Marines were consigned. The number of appalling Cornish "characters" was such, that one could only

really feel sorry for the Americans.

It was difficult to see the precise point of last night's play, although the violence of the Cornishmen against the "Yanks", the preparations for a nuclear war, and the sudden discovery of 15 skeletons on a beach suggested that we were being asked to contemplate the nature of aggression and death. Or perhaps not. Whoever decided that it was a "Cornish 'country and western' comedy" was being wildly over-optimistic, however.

Peter Ackroyd

WEEKEND CHOICE

The Day After (ITV tonight 9.30) is the ultimate of horror served up on a rickety table, writes Peter Daville. Once a city has been destroyed by nuclear missiles, the disaster movie has attained the *ne plus ultra*. From now on, all is anti-climax. And the same is true of this American television film itself once the missiles have landed on Kansas City, instantly converting the walking living who are left into the walking dead. The ghastliness of the film's apocalyptic vision will be too much for some viewers but not enough for others who had been led to expect far worse of Doomsday than this. What seriously flaws the film as a work of fiction is precisely what vitiates all disaster movies, the

superficiality of the sub-plots and the sketchiness of the characters. There is a more profound understanding of a nuclear armageddon in the gentle lunacy of any of the concluding cartoon strips in Raymond Briggs's *When the Wind Blows* than in the whole of *The Day After*.

Ivor Wilson has written a splendid, chilling thriller for tonight's Saturday Night Theatre production in *Afternoon Call* (Radio 4 8.30 pm), writes Peter Dear. Deceptively a run-of-the-mill murder mystery, the play develops into one that gives the listener a sense of unease even when the identity of the murderer is disclosed, long before the climax of the

play. Jane Collins is excellent as Sally Kingsley, the only good witness the police have in the murder inquiry of her best friend - a local housewife. Detective Chief Inspector Turner leads two young detective constables in the inquiries and it is one of them, Wilkinson, who takes a more than professional interest in the attractive Miss Kingsley - and not only from the sexual angle. Will the plodding Chief Inspector's intuition lead him to the identity of the murderer before he strikes again? A cleverly crafted play that retains the tension to the very last.

David's Wade's *Radin* column has been held over until next week.

Theatre

Don Juan

Jackson's Lane

Appearing for three nights in Highgate, this Actor's Touring Company production offers a well-thought-out, chilling approach to Molière's most ambiguous play.

The *commedia dell'arte* devices employed by John Reallack are intimately geared to his reading of the piece. The company assemble in dark raincoats carrying property baskets, and that funeral image persists throughout the production. The baskets are variously rearranged as rostra before finally opening up at the statue's feet like the mouth of hell.

While scenes pass in period costumes there is often a sepulchral rain-coated observer stationed at the edge of the action. And the copious doubling gives pride of place to Richard Henry, a Voltaire-like gnome, who reappears as the forest beggar, Elvira's avenging brother, and the hero's father - marking successive stages on Juan's road to damnation.

Commedia, in other words, is converted into an expressionist device, shorn of its fun but rich in menace. Against that sombre background, Edmund Falzon is able to define the positive as well as the negative sides of Juan as a rebel *libertino* defying an inescapable fate. It is a low-key performance. Its key is the declaration of sincerity to Terry John's *Sganarelle*; he is totally honest to his servant and his audience.

The surrounding company includes a barn-storming Marthurine from Claire Benedict; and a seaside seduction played (in Nigel Gearing's translation) in full-blooded Irish brogue.

Believe It or Not/Role Play

Theatre Upstairs

Peter Hartwell's clever permanent set for the Royal Court Young People's Theatre Scheme season - green stageloor serving as floor or greensward, white traverse curtains creating an abstract setting of a precise hospital ward - serves equally well for these last two plays, less ambitious but still vividly contrasted. Yasmine Judge's *Role Play*, considers a black boy's choice of a police career and its effect on his white friendships, which is not wholly what you expect.

The play takes its time but, thanks to Gill Beadles cast and especially Alex Simon as the honourable, sensitive Rob, it strongly presents the dilemma of a boy whose aspirations turn only into "the acceptable face of police ethnic relations".

For curtain-raiser there is a 15-year-old's *jeu d'esprit*. Directed by Pauline Randall whose *Fishing* is running at the Arts, Dawn Scott's *Believe It or Not*, *It's True* starts, like *Fishing*, with a duet of ill-used girls. Sally (Kirsten Soar) compares men, not to useless goldfish as in Miss Randall's play, but to a scarf that comforts but is always round your neck: lonely black Cheryl (Killian Gideon) gloomily eats cold baked beans from a tin with a tablespoon.

Then hey presto, a big black boy (John Taylor) in a dazzling white suit introduces himself as Cheryl's guardian angel ("Call me G.A."). Though the interesting implications are underdeveloped, the moping Miss Gideon and the suave Mr Taylor, finally reduced to gin-drinking from sheer inability to cope with her, are a lovely pair.

Concert

Juilliard Quartet

Queen Elizabeth Hall

In a less Weberian frame of mind one presumably would have summoned more patience for Hugo Wolf's sprawling, youthful D Minor Quartet. It received a fine interpretation but though this score is packed with ideas, one senses, in view of the length, a lack of selectivity. And the refinement of the playing could not conceal that especially in the first movement Wolf addresses us mostly at the top of his voice. Matters were scarcely improved by reversing the order of the inner movements, as the Juilliard did, as this placed the very energetic Scherzo second.

After such textural density Mozart's Quartet K465 offered relief even though it starts with a famously troubled slow introduction. The Allegro to which this gives way had a performance that beautifully reflected the music's poise and unflagging lucidity. In the Andante was revealed, too, a concentrated expressiveness that quite put one in mind of recent happenings at the Barbican.

Irving Wardle

Anthony Masters

Max Harrison



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SPORTING DIARY

Just not cricket

Eton and Harrow play up a play there; club men and village boys swipe and swashbuckle there; South Africans play there and sometimes wear England jerseys as well. But once again, the England women's cricket team have had their request to do the same turned down. Problems with the fixtures, they are told.

"We asked if we could play New Zealand in a one-day international at Lord's on any Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday between June 12 and August 6," said the Women's Cricket Association's redoubtable PRO, Rachel Heyhoe Flint. "We're all very sad not to be playing at Lord's. The women's team has played there just once since the WCA was founded in 1926, and that was to celebrate their half-centenary in 1976. "Perhaps we'll play there again in another 50 years," said Mrs Flint.

Beethoven book

Tickets for Albert Hall boxing events always bear the legend "betting strictly prohibited". Our boxing man, Srikanth Sen, is wondering if tickets to Promenade Concerts have the same inscription and, if not, whether he should make a book on Beethoven's ninth: 2-1 the soprano misses the big note. There's joy for you.

Sweet revenge

Chocs away - the British National Squash Championships have lost the sponsorship of Thornton's, the confectioners, but they have been taken under the wing of Just Juice. What is more, two girls from Gurnsey, the spiritual home of the tomato, are seeded to contest the women's final this weekend.

● Ladbrokes are already running a book on the World Cup, which reaches the final stage in Mexico in 1986. There are 121 runners at this stage. They are making Brazil an ungenerous 7-2 with Argentina at 5-1. England are 16-1, with Scotland 50-1 and Wales and Northern Ireland 100-1.

BARRY FANTONI



"A simple misunderstanding, my lord: my client blew into a taxiometer."

Valiant seven

FIFA are accustomed to their wretched brew of problems with the World Cup but at least they don't have the agonies of the organizers of the fifth African Men's Volleyball Championship, which started at Port Said this week. Of the 16 teams due to compete, only seven turned up. Put your money on Egypt - they trained in China.

Quick change

The worst thing in football, says the Brighton player Jimmy Case, is getting changed: "It seems to spend half my day getting in and out of different clothes. His problems are as nothing when compared with Daley Thompson's in the course of a decathlon. Daley will take his trousers off and on approximately 28 times.

● Quote of the week: "When an industry provides £272m for the Exchequer and sees only £19m returned through the betting levy, and is then told that the Exchequer will not follow an EEC directive on VAT to create parity between ourselves and the French and Irish, it will protest loudly. The English ever so neatly ask to be like the French and the Irish, but in the case of bloodstock, Home Secretary, we do ask you to seek your Government's consideration." The Marquis of Tavistock at the Gimcrack dinner.

Sorry, lads

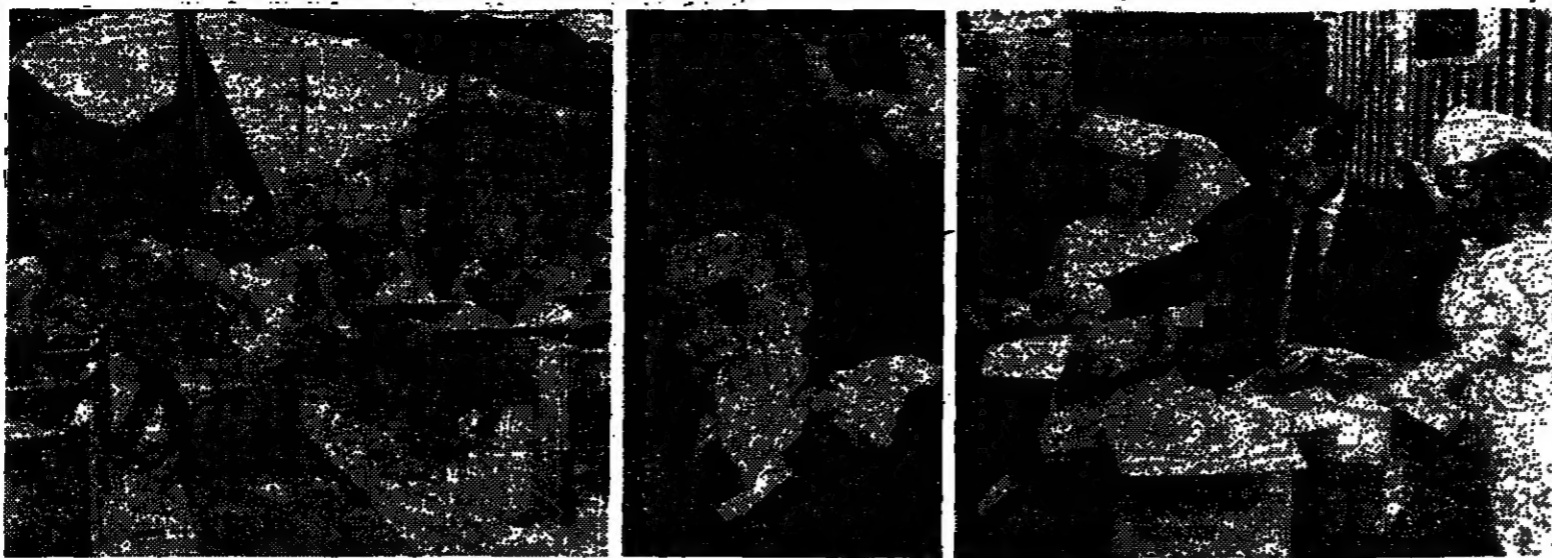
This week's hot tip: Harrow Borough of the Isthmian League will definitely beat the Third Division club, Newport County in the second round of the FA cup today. The reason? I have been covering FA matches from the first qualifying round onward, following the winners each time, and have been a Jonah to every side. No team I have covered has won twice. Singlehandedly, I have accounted for Chalfont St Peter, Uxbridge, Hampton, Slough and Poole. Newport, today's overdogs, are in trouble. Sorry, lads, but that's football.

More on the Cup: Ian Botham is in the Southampton squad of 14 for the second round match against Bury since the club's top scorer, Carmack, is carrying an injury. "Botham is not there just to make up the numbers," said the Southampton manager, Allan Clarke. Tempting fate: Franz Beckenbauer: "Once again, Hordell has demonstrated that he cannot do it when it matters." Ted Croker: "We will definitely qualify."

Simon Barnes

Armageddon out of focus

Bernard Levin finds 'The Day After' aimed at the wrong targets



Three film views of nuclear war: victims in *The Day After*; the doomsday man of *Dr Strangelove*; medical aid in *On the Beach*

Since *The Day After*, which is to be seen on ITV this evening, will inevitably be discussed almost entirely in terms of its effect on public opinion and on those who are obliged to take that opinion into account in the framing of policy, and since those who commissioned it (the ABC television network in the United States) and made it (Edward Hume, scriptwriter, Nicholas Meyer, director) must have been aware from the start that that would be the result, and indeed must in large measure have intended it to be, it falls to be judged by the standards and principles of political debate rather than of artistic quality.

As it happens, that is just as well, for even on the most indulgent view of it in cinematic terms it is the veriest trash; it inevitably challenges comparison with such other nuclear-holocaust films as Kubrick's *Dr Strangelove* and Kramer's *On the Beach*, and falls such a test with devastating completeness. It is composed almost entirely of verbal and visual clichés, the acting is dreadful, and its most striking single image - a vast panoramic shot of wounded and dying people waiting hopelessly for succour - is lifted straight from *Gone With the Wind*. (There is some ingenious and effective trick photography for the nuclear holocaust itself, and the make-up department has clearly been given its head, together with an unlimited budget for supplies of latex, gelatine and ketchup.)

The Day After sets out to show that a full-scale nuclear exchange would be a hideous and unparalleled disaster; it may be said to have proved this point as conclusively as the manufacturers of calendars could prove, if they were minded to, that Christmas comes but once a year. On the other hand, a drunk who announces that twice two are four and that he will fight any man who denies it is unlikely to have his challenge accepted even by the most belligerent among his audience, and it is not clear whether the makers of *The Day After* believe that the

western world is awash with people who think that nuclear war would be a most delightful experience or whether they are aware that everybody is already possessed of their central argument and are obliged to pretend otherwise lest they should begin to ask themselves why they made the film in the first place.

In seeking an answer to this question let us begin with the last of the film's many excursions into sleight-of-mind. The final moments are devoted to a statement of what we are presumably asked to believe were the makers' motives. They claim to hope that the images of devastation will inspire the world's peoples and leaders to avert the catastrophe; the fallacy is as obvious as the argument that nuclear war would be bad for its users' health, but it must nevertheless be set out and condemned.

The peoples of the western world will see *The Day After*, millions of Americans have already done so, a large audience may be expected in Britain tonight, and no doubt dubbed or sub-titled versions will be shown throughout Western Europe and in other countries where the rulers do not decide what films may be seen. The peoples of the Soviet Union and its Empire, however, are rather unlikely to be allowed to see it; nor, even if they were to, would they be in a position to express dissent from the military policies of their rulers if such dissent is what the film inspired them to, for the one thing that the Soviet rulers will in no circumstances tolerate is a Campaign for Soviet Disarmament. (That is not just a general deduction from Soviet policy. Alexander Shatrovskiy and Vladimir Mishchenko, two members of a genuine Soviet peace group - The Group for Establishing Trust between the USSR and USA - have been in prison, awaiting trial, since July 1982. In August of the same year, an exhibition of paintings in memory of the victims of Hiroshima, held in a private house, was forcibly broken

up and the pictures confiscated; the artist was sentenced to a month in a psychiatric "hospital", and has suffered eight periods of house arrest. Another exhibition, also in a private house, sought to portray the activities of the peace movement in America; the KGB first prevented anyone from going in, then arrested one of the organizing group, then beat up the man in whose apartment the exhibition was to take place.) The missiles that in the film we see destroying the United States are Soviet missiles, and although in this country the campaigners for western disarmament will spend the next weeks trying to shuffle that fact away and to concentrate on the horrors depicted, it is important for the rest of us to remember it, because it reminds us of why we have nuclear weapons at all.

We have them as a deterrent to Soviet aggression; the film is careful never to say plainly which side fires nuclear rockets first, but since the war is started by the Soviet Union (following widespread mutiny in the East German army - another reason why the Soviet people will not see the film) seating off West Berlin, the implication (there is talk of an American ultimatum) is that the United States used nuclear weapons to stem a conventional attack. Thus the trick is done, and the point - that American missiles are hot-headed and dangerous (unlike Soviet missiles, which many members of CND earnestly believe are filled with funny hats, mottoes and tangerines wrapped in silver paper) - is reinforced by a speech from the American President after the holocaust, when he is heard boasting that the United States had not weakened in defence of liberty, for which he had been willing to destroy the world. Whoopee.

With that, the film becomes no more than fuel for the flames of CND's most dishonest form of propaganda for one-sided western disarmament (a fire that in the weeks ahead will be fanned by every

means available to the movement); with the aid of *The Day After*, those whose only effect can be to weaken the West will tell us that because nuclear war would be a catastrophe beyond anything the world has ever seen, which is true, the only way to avoid it is to assume that our enemies are really our friends and will do us no harm even if they think they can do us harm with impunity, which is not.

A film like *The Day After*, which shows what would happen in a nuclear attack - and obviously what it shows is more or less what would really happen - should make us feel even more strongly that we have to avoid such a catastrophe. That duty this film betrays; it shows the horrors in lavish detail, mutters about the world being crazy and the President of the United States crazier than most, then throws up its hands and weeps for mankind. But mankind will not be saved by tears; mankind will be saved by cool heads and resolute policies, or, to put it in the most practical terms, by the West convincing the Soviet Union's leaders that there is a line beyond which an advance by them would entail an unacceptable risk. Of course even Soviet domination and the extinction of our freedoms, national identity and hope would be less terrible than nuclear extermination. But these things are not less terrible than continuing to live in the armed camp that the world has been for a third of a century - and, since the knowledge of nuclear weapons cannot be unlearned, will continue to be for the foreseeable future. *The Day After* will not shift the terms of the nuclear debate - the debate over the best way of avoiding nuclear war - one inch in any direction. All it can do is to soften a few more heads, increase the emotional content in an argument already over-supplied with it, and induce nightmares in the more impressionable members of the audience. Not enough.

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Moscow's moles and the 'Nazi spy'

On Monday the Public Records Office releases the secret papers which tell of the wartime interrogation of Oswald Mosley. Nigel West suggests why some documents will remain under wraps

tendent Albert Canning, who reported to the Assistant Commissioner to the CID, Sir Norman Kendall. Canning and Kendall shared publicity, but for more than a decade both men dominated the surveillance of political extremists in pre-war London.

Special Branch detectives, then and now, enjoy no extra powers, and the only qualification for entry into the branch is the knowledge of, at least one foreign language. M15, on the other hand, is altogether quite different and, until 1963 and the publication of the Denning Report on the Profumo affair, remained an unacknowledged department of government.

Responsibility for monitoring Blackshirt activity rested with two highly secret sections of M15: B5(b), a sub-division of the counter-espionage R Division, which was headed by the mysterious Captain Max Knight, who ran agents into these political groups suspected of collaborating with German spies, and the political branch, known as F Division, headed by Roger Hollis, which monitored all the extremist parties of both left and right.

F2 dealt with the communists while F3 kept a watch on the various

nationalist movements, and certain individuals suspected of pro-Nazi sympathies.

After the war had broken out a galaxy of talent was persuaded to join F Branch to help to identify the potential Fifth Columnists. They included such distinguished men as Sir Roger Fulford, the historian, and Sir Blanshard Stamp, a future Lord of Appeals. In addition to this monitoring of subversives, the "watchers" of B6 undertook to keep selected suspects under observation.

During the latter part of 1940 the deployment of the Watcher Service was the responsibility of a bright new M15 recruit from the Field Security Police named Anthony Blunt.

Initially F3 was in the hands of an M15 officer named Alan Sneath, but in 1939 a Winchester and Oxford-educated journalist from the *Illustrated London News* was recruited to assist in dealing with the fascists. He was Graham Mitchell, and it was his job to monitor the activities of Mosley and his supporters. It was partly as a result of his advice that Churchill ordered Mosley and his wife to be detained in May, 1940.

Two days earlier Max Knight had

masterminded the arrest of Tyler Kent. Kent's diplomatic immunity was suspended by Ambassador Joseph Kennedy, and when Max Knight and Special Branch detectives searched the American's flat in Gloucester Place on May 20, 1940, they seized more than 1,500 classified telegrams.

In the weeks leading up to his arrest in 1940, Tyler Kent had removed the "flimsies" of 1,700 telegrams from the embassy and shown them to a pro-Nazi MP, Captain Archibald Ramsay, and other members of his secret right-wing discussion group known as *The Right Club*. From there they were delivered to an assistant naval attaché at the Italian Embassy for onward transmission to Berlin.

Captain Ramsay was promptly detained at Brixton under the Emergency Regulations and Tyler Kent was tried at the Old Bailey for breaches of the Official Secrets Act. He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and deported back to the United States on his release.

Concern grew about Soviet penetration of the security service. What has remained under wraps is the fact that during the post-war reassessment of M15's wartime performance. In particular, a review was undertaken of all those cases previously classified as fascist-motivated, including the most important case of all, that of Tyler Kent.

M15's postwar investigators learned that in fact Kent had been recruited by the Russians while on attachment to the American Embassy in Moscow, where he had been immediately before his posting to London. The implication was that much of the pro-Nazi subversion monitored by F Division in the early months of the war had in fact been orchestrated from Moscow, not Berlin.

It will be recalled that during this period the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact of August 1939, which allied the Soviet Union to Nazi Germany, was in force and remained so until the invasion of Russia in June, 1941. Since M15's surveillance on the pro-Nazi sympathisers in London had been in the hands of Anthony Blunt and others later suspected of working under Soviet control, it is not entirely surprising that six M15 files on the subject should have been retained.

Far from covering up the alleged involvement of senior politicians with the Blackshirts, the files are more likely to contain information concerning that most sensitive of all subjects, Soviet penetration of the security service.

Nigel West is the author of *M16: British Secret Intelligence Service Operations 1909-45*, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £9.95.



Tyler Kent and Oswald Mosley: Communist among the fascists?

Woodrow Wyatt

US up against the jingo factor

A discreditable anti-Americanism lurks not far from the surface in the British mind. For periods it is suppressed. When something happens which appears to give it respectable justification out it jumps unrestrained.

Last Monday in the House of Commons was an instance. The Americans' misanthropic murder of several hundreds of US servicemen in their peacekeeping force in Lebanon (plus more recent attacks) had struck back at the Syrians who had given the murderers the base from which to operate. The American action wasn't very cleverly carried out: it lacked the precision of an Israeli raid, but it was understandable.

The weight of the voices in the Commons did not try to understand it. Denis Healey vigorously mined all he could out of the vein of anti-Americanism, misusing his formidable knowledge of international affairs as cover for his purpose. Anti-Americanism goes down a treat with most of the Parliamentary Labour Party and shields Mr. Healey from the arrows of the Marxist inclined. (Why he should bother with them now that he has no future in Labour Party is a mystery which can be explained only by him.)

Why are we so ready to query American motives and actions? Jealousy. It is decades since Britain relinquished the positions which gave us real power in the world. We were right to leave India, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and the Gulf states. Our belief that countries should be independent arbiters of their own fate, added to our reduced circumstances relative to the rest of the world, made this inevitable. But it is obvious that in some areas, such as the Middle East, British withdrawal left major opportunities to the Russians and undemocratic forces hostile to the West. America's attempt to fill the gap should have our support and it would have, were it not for our residual feeling that it is we who should be doing what America is doing and that we would be doing it much better.

But what are we going to say if the Iranians defeat Iraq and march to destroy the rulers of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, as they easily

could unless stopped by the Americans? Well, Mr Healey would say, supported by Tories still bitter that America has taken over our previous world role, that the Americans have no business to intervene. If that advice were heeded there would be a very nasty hole in many non-communist economies.

I have yet to see a television documentary in Britain which puts the case for the US's worries about Central America. We get plenty of footage about atrocities committed by anti-Marxist and anti-Cuban forces, but none about the atrocities the Marxists and Cubans commit. The Marxists and Cubans are a long way from us but they are close to the US. Where is the documentary programme dispassionately examining the intentions of Cuba, backed by the Soviet Union, to set up Marxist dictatorships to threaten America? We lacked on fast enough to the alleged constitutional impurity of the American action in Grenada and appeared to resent it being given another chance for democracy.

We asked for cruise missiles to be situated here. Even Tories see an opportunity for anti-Americanism in their arrival and foolishly demand dual-key control, with the clear implication that America has suddenly become untrustworthy. The fact that American F111s have been, and still are, flying from British bases for years carrying enough nuclear weapons to blot out most of Russia without any dual control by us does not halt the illogicality of the anti-Americanism over cruise missiles. Nor does our own possession of nuclear weapons sufficient to start a third world war without the USA demanding dual control over them.

We dare not go it alone. We know that the non-communist world depends for its defence on the US. We may regret that it does not depend on us but it is petty-minded to extend that regret into spiteful and condescending attitudes on the US. The willingness of America to listen to Britain, for whom the Reagan Administration retains a strong respect and affection, is damaged by the ease with which we understand the points of view of American opponents but not hers.

Philip Oakes

The good, the bad and the eminent



Autobiographers Beverley Nichols, A. J. P. Taylor and Laurie Lee: what price "Amis's Law"?

The other night on BBC1's *Bookmark* programme I was, not to put too fine a point on it, mugged by Kingsley Amis, who declared his dislike of a book of mine called *At the Jazz Band Ball* - the concluding volume in a trilogy of memoirs. What Amis complained of was not how the book was written but that it had been written at all. I lacked one vital qualification. "He's not eminent," Amis told the programme's presenter, Simon Winchester. "You could take a boring account of a childhood in a Swiss village because it's Albert Schweitzer who's doing it, and that would be interesting. But Oakes isn't eminent enough."

Apart from Amis's enthusiasm for Dr Schweitzer (an unlikely hero for the *Daily Express* drinks columnist. I would have thought) what surprised me was how brisely he made his point, as though it was a rule of thumb which all would-be memoirists should have absorbed with their mother's milk. But, of course, it's no such thing. What Amis was enunciating was a new literary principle - Amis's Law, no less - which, if it is accepted, could substantially alter one's approach to books written and books to come. It decrees that eminence is a pre-requisite of autobiography, a yardstick which all practitioners of Eng. Lit. should stow in their knapsacks forthwith.

But the E-factor (E for eminence) is hard to define. On *Bookmark*, I noticed, Amis was introduced as a chap who now "sports a CBE for services to English literature." Is that the sort of eminence he had in mind? Or was he thinking in more general terms? "Distinguished superiority (social, intellectual, etc.," says the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, which rules out any number of the autobiographers whose most notable works were written long before their present eminence was recognized. Laurie Lee was a well-regarded but minor poet before *Cider with Rosie* established his reputation. Casanova was a necessarily obscure but a libertine before his *Story of My Life* was acclaimed by the world at large.

Beverley Nichols led with his chin by writing an autobiography at 25, but the book nudged him into a kind of celebrity which, for the rest of his life, he found it hard to live up to. Chasing the E-factor is like trying to decide whether the chicken or the egg came first. It could form the basis of a good party game.

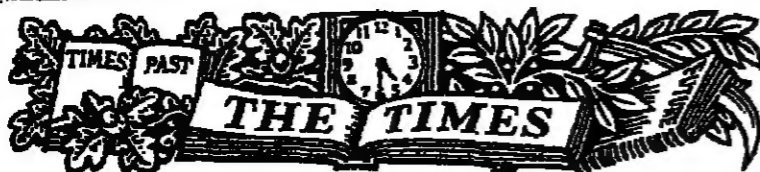
Some people, of course, are born with the E-factor. Kings and dukes

have it, although there's no guarantee that it will equip them as men of letters. Others have it thrust upon them, which conceivably brings such contrasting life stories as *A Yorkshire Boyhood* by Roy Hattersley and *A Man of Honour*, the true confessions of Joseph Bonnamy, head of the American Mafia, under the same net. But where does Amis place recent practitioners of the art such as John Osborne, Clive James, A. J. P. Taylor and Christine Keeler? Are they all eminent enough? Or are there some who are one, or conceivably two, degrees under?

In the days of the Raj there was a pig-sticking regiment in India which has as its motto the terse commandment "Never once complaining, never explain." Every author should take it to heart and it is in no spirit of remonstrance that I make my enquiry. Perhaps it's worth pointing out, though, that my own trilogy was not conceived as a view from the heights but as a personalized social history of three decades which tells something of English life. The E-factor never comes into it. Nor does the number of books which survey their own times (often with a worm's-eye view) offering conversations and insights which eminence would blinker.

For example: Hubert Nicholson's *Half My Days and Nights*, which celebrates the provincial Bohemia of the 1930s; Julian Maclaren-Ross's *Memoirs of the Forties*, set largely in literary Fitzrovia; *Two Flamboyant Fathers* by Nicolette Devas, which describes a childhood lived in the turbulent shadow of Augustus John and William Goldsworthy's *East End My Cradle*, which marvellously recreates the Steppenwolf of the 1920s. They may not measure up to the Amis prescription for autobiography. But their vitality, their candour and their vision transcend any glib and peevish concept.

Times change, of course, so do ideas of eminence. Two just wrote me a letter from an author who wrote to me in September 1953, thanking me for my review of his novel which the majority of critics had either disliked or misunderstood. "I really am most grateful for your understanding and sympathetic review," he wrote. "These older persons of refinement and taste, even when they praised the book, were hopelessly (and I should hope demonstrably) far from the target. But then they all went to Eton, so how can they know?" It is signed Kingsley Amis.



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SOUTH ATLANTIC PARTNERS

Argentina today acquires a new President, Senator Alfonsín was democratically elected. He represents a break with forty years of turbulent political alternation between Peronism and military dictatorship. His election obviously does not guarantee that that volatile country with its ruined economy will indefinitely sustain a leader who, alone of his peers, stood out in opposition to the invasion of the Falklands. But that fact adds extra significance and symbolism to his election, and it should elicit an appropriate response from Britain which has sadly not yet been forthcoming.

Of course there are difficulties and distractions, of which the question of resumed American arms sales to Argentina is only the most recent. It is, frankly, an irrelevance, in the longer term context of the Falklands and British relations with Argentina. It occurs partly because the Reagan administration has endorsed a certification of progress on human rights in Argentina, which means that the embargo on arms sales can now be lifted. Perhaps Washington is being premature in the lifting of that embargo since it suggests that human rights progress has been made by the now wholly discredited junta which was dissolved two days ago. It would have been better to have waited until such progress could clearly have been attributed to positive measures taken by Senator Alfonsín's administration.

However, it is a distraction because British ministers know both that Senator Alfonsín neither wants nor needs arms from the United States with which to alter the local balance of power in the South Atlantic, and because the American Administration would not wish to sell him arms which would have such an effect. The hope for a normalization of Anglo-Argentine relations, expressed by Mr. Thatcher in the Commons yesterday and by Baroness Young in Tuesday's wide-ranging debate on the Falklands in the Lords, is the more sensible attitude to convey.

British policy towards Argentina must therefore be calculated, where possible, to assist the fortunes of Senator Alfonsín in his attempts to consolidate power and rehabilitate democracy in his country. There will be

a need to prevent any recurrence of a situation where the underlying Argentine feeling on the Falklands can be exploited unscrupulously for domestic political purposes leading to a knee-jerk reaction with tragic consequences.

How can this be done? First, there should be no British ambiguity of the kind which preceded and was partially responsible for last year's Argentine invasion. We know now that the Argentines would never have attacked if they had thought the British would respond in kind. The British position should thus be clear cut: that will recognize that sovereignty over the Falklands - certainly some of them - is disputed, that neither side regards its claim as negotiable, that neither side is willing for the claim to be tested at the International Court, and that the basis of each side's claim is anyway unlikely to be clear enough for any judicial decision to be reached.

In this the position of the islanders is crucial. But it cannot be the sole factor. The doctrine of self-determination is not clear enough to point the way further than the assertion that no change in the administration and government of the Falkland Islands should be agreed without the fullest consideration of the islanders' views. Logically self-determination could lead to creation of an independent Falklands. That might be attractive as a means of overcoming the residual anti-colonialist attitudes which underlie much of the international opposition to the British position. In practice it is not desired by the islanders, or by Britain, since it would merely create one more micro-state without the means to defend itself in a potentially hostile environment - another Belize or Grenada in the making.

Nevertheless the conversations currently in hand between Britain and the Falklanders are based on moves to establish a fully self-governing colony, but still a colony; and a colony of only some 500 house-holders surrounded by many more troops. Admittedly the size of the garrison will drop on completion of the new air strip, as will the running expense of defending the Falklands. But long before then it should be

hoped that discussions with Argentina, even without resolution of the irreconcilable positions on sovereignty, had established in practice that, whatever the juridical status of this or that island, all three parties - Argentina, Britain and the Falklands - were legitimately and collectively involved in the future, not just because of geography, but because of the need for long term development of resources in the South Atlantic and Antarctica.

Britain is legitimately concerned with that part of the world as a participant in the Antarctic Treaty, to which now even India and China have acceded. The Argentine claim to the Falkland Dependencies is a nonsense juridically and geographically - South Georgia for instance is as far from Argentina as Britain is from Greenland - but the Antarctic Treaty at least has provided a useful precedent for international cooperation without prejudice to or disturbance of unresolved claims of sovereignty.

Consequently the future status of the Falklands should not stand in the way of Anglo-Argentine cooperation provided that Britain can make it clear that whatever that status will be - it will contain an Anglo-Argentine dimension of some kind. The actual constitution of the Falklands is now a matter for the islanders and the British Government, but the ultimate relationship will undoubtedly have to be a tripartite one within the region as a whole. Britain's readiness to accommodate Argentina should be coupled with an unambiguous intention to remain an active participant and collaborator in the South Atlantic and Antarctica where the two countries could work together on the basis of mutual respect.

How we get there remains to be seen, since it will be a slow process. But given that the fact and history of the Falklands inspires in each country an emotional and political response of particular intensity, it should - indeed it must - be possible to work for a future where the Islands become the symbol of an Anglo-Argentine partnership in the South Atlantic and Antarctica and no longer an open wound.

THE NAMIBIAN PRESSURE-POINT

France's decision not to attend any further meetings of the Western "contact group" on Namibia is valuable in drawing attention to the fact that the group has failed in its task of persuading South Africa to allow the birth of an independent Namibia. In the five years of its life, the group - Britain, United States, West Germany, Canada and France - has made progress on a number of issues; there is now virtual agreement on such things as how to organize free and fair elections, the composition and deployment of a United Nations truce administering force and the number of dispositions of South African troops in the transition period. But the agreements have not been enough to move Pretoria out of power.

African nations are agreed that the blame for this lies at the door of the United States because it brought into the dispute the concept of "linkage" - that is, it made a settlement depend on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. This view gained considerable support at the Commonwealth conference in Delhi, and it is the main factor that persuaded M. Claude Cheysson that the group should be "put to sleep". It is, however, unfair to the Americans in many ways. A truer analysis might be that there is no settlement because the South Africans do not wish for a settlement. Whether the Americans - or, indeed, the West - can or should do anything about that is another, more difficult, question.

There is much misunderstanding about "linkage". In the first place, it cannot be denied that the presence of Cuban troops in Angola is not part of the remit of the "contact group": the troops are there at the invitation of the Angola government and the matter legally concerns no one but the Angolan and Cuban governments. The South African

policy, on the other hand, is in Namibia in defiance of United Nations Security Resolution 435 and the matter is thus the business of the international community and the "contact group".

The Americans admit this. They talk of a "parallel" withdrawal of the Cubans rather than a "linked" withdrawal. Their point is that the Cubans are indisputably there and contribute to the instability of the region: more importantly, their withdrawal could give the South African government an added incentive to allow the installation of a hostile government in Windhoek. The Americans argued that they could help to strike a deal. This seemed plausible, and the rest of the "contact group" stayed quietly in the background (with mounting embarrassment on the part of the French Socialists) while Mr. Chester Crocker and his aides travelled repeatedly between Pretoria, Luanda and the so-called "frontline states". But they failed, as M. Cheysson has now pointed out.

There seemed to be good reasons why the South Africans should welcome a settlement: the war costs them about \$500m a year and 77 South African troops were killed in 1982 (that may seem a small number, but the army is conscript and the war unpopular). It has been argued that with Namibia off its back, South Africa might better be able to negotiate its way back into the world's favour (especially with well-disposed governments in Washington and London). And some military men have argued that the Orange River provides a more easily-defensible border than the Angolan-Namibian border.

But these arguments do not prevail in Pretoria. The military men are pleased with their conduct of the war against Swapo (they are winning, but

they will never end it) and happily plan other incursions out of the larger into neighbouring states. The politicians reason that if the world was not worrying about Namibia it would turn its full attention to righting wrongs within South Africa. And within South Africa Mr. Botha's government, with the granite of Afrikaner unity already split beneath its feet by its so-called "reforms", would lose votes to Dr. Andries Treurnicht and his Conservative Party if he appeared to sell out in Namibia.

What suits Mr. Botha best is to be able to delay things, avoiding a crunching confrontation but also conceding nothing. He has particularly welcomed the "linkage" issue because it has enabled him to put the onus onto the Angolans: "Yes, I will agree, provided the Angolans expel the Cubans first," he says, confident that the Angolans will not do so, if only because of the threat from the South African-supported Unita rebels.

The weakness of the Americans' policy - and of their whole "constructive engagement" in southern Africa - is that there is no threat, no stick to go with the carrot. The West will never agree to sanctions (which would not be effective anyway) and America is too deeply committed to think of just walking away. On the other hand, the constructive part of American policy has not allowed Mr. Botha to feel secure about his leisurely efforts to adapt to reality.

The recognition of failure (thanks to M. Cheysson) might inspire some rethinking. There are no easy answers. Dramatic gestures like sanctions would almost certainly be counter-productive. But some way must be found of keeping pressure on South Africa, towards a settlement in Namibia immediately and peacefully change within the republic in the long run.

this city of three million is an important seaport as well as an industrial centre. The Americans, Russians, Japanese, Germans, French, Dutch and Belgians all find it worthwhile to have consulates general or consulates.

The Americans, Germans and French maintain cultural institutions. We have neither consulate nor British Council presence. Yours truly, C. V. EYRE, c/o Kojak Pos 310, Surabaya, Indonesia. November 26.

In hot water?

From Mr D. C. Burrows
Sir, Has informality gone too far in the Church of England? I have recently attended a baptism in the vicar produced a Thermos flask at the most solemn moment in the service with the words "This is my coffee break." I am just filling the font with warm water. Yours faithfully D.C. BURROWS, Banks Farm House, Burton Overy, Leicestershire. December 6.

Lack of presence

From Mr C. V. Eyre
Sir, Recently leaving Banjul, the Gambia, to work in Surabaya, I am struck by the contrast between British representation in the two cities. In Banjul, the small-town capital of the tiny country of a little over half a million people, we maintain a well-staffed British High Commission. In Surabaya, the second city of this nation of 140 million, there is no British representative. Situated at the other end of Java from Jakarta, where an embassy is,

Matters of life and death

From Mr Brian Cummins

Sir, The novelist, David Hart (feature, December 5), should stick to fiction. Let me counter the product of his imagination with fact. I am a consultant neurosurgeon with some private practice. After six years' university, my postgraduate education lasted 12 years, when my service commitment to the NHS averaged 85 hours a week. My training, by surgeons of the highest skill, made me competent to perform some of the most complex operations in surgery. As a consultant, I work at least 60 hours each week for the NHS and so do my colleagues. I am paid for 35 hours, which I consider good money.

In 1982 I personally performed for the NHS over 200 major brain and spinal operations. In private practice this would have earned me at least £100,000, cheap by international standards. I saw several hundred outpatients and attended many committee meetings, whose agenda revolved around the enhancement of our service, the necessity to control medical expenditure and the planning of a long-deferred new hospital.

It is my privilege to train the next generation of surgeons. This is the general pattern of consultant practice.

I have yet to find an insurance scheme which adequately covers prolonged disease or allows care in old age. The feeble and incompetent elderly in our wards are the minority of the aged community, who do their best to look after themselves. The children of the 85-year-olds are often in their sixties.

In the last year I have treated two refugees from the new Australian insurance system. Both were in their forties, both had cancer, both had treatment in Australia before they came to us. I have to say that the "managers" there do not have to take life or death decisions; it is done for them.

In our hospital, it is usually the mains electricity which fails. Then our generators cut in, allowing me to operate in safety, without pause. There are few private hospitals which can safely cope with the major surgery routinely performed in NHS hospitals. Despite the absence of resident medical staff, adequate physiotherapy and sophisticated diagnostic imaging, the daily charges of the private-sector hospitals approximate to those of the NHS.

There is no shame to the NHS. There must be pride that the citizens of this country contribute to a service which, with all its faults, can treat the injured and the sick without knowledge of their income, provide shelter for the aged and treat the mentally infirm with tenderness. God help the party Mr Hart advises. Yours, BRIAN H. CUMMINS, Evanscody, Hambrook, Bristol, Avon.

Sphere of influence

From Dr Marion Gore
Sir, Your headline in Saturday's issue (December 3) states: "US tells Russia to keep out of the Middle East". From *The Times Atlas of the World* it would appear that, as the bomber flies, the distance between Yerevan, capital of Soviet Armenia, and Beirut is less than half the distance between King Largs, Florida, and St George's, Grenada. Who is in whose back yard? Yours faithfully, MARION GORE, 24 Lawn Road, NW3.

GLC land reclamation

From Mr Leslie Lane
Sir, I sincerely hope that the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority will survive the impending abolition of the Greater London Council. This body was set up by Act of Parliament in 1967, on the initiative of the Civic Trust (of which I was then director). Its remit was to reclaim derelict land along the River Lea from the Thames to Ware in Hertfordshire. Its task is by no means completed.

Its finance is derived from rate precepts, of which I understand the GLC contributes 75 per cent. It is essential that the authorities' income should be maintained and if possible increased and the burden is not one which would be undertaken by riparian authorities.

The task is essentially a regional one which, like the duties of the Historic Buildings Department of the GLC, cannot be devolved and which needs to be funded from regional, not local, resources.

Yours faithfully, LESLIE LANE, 11 Creswick Walk, NW11. November 22.

Plans for civil defence

From Mr Simon Turney
Sir, Mr Douglas Hurd's letter of December 7 on civil defence and planning assumptions lamentably fails to provide satisfactory answers to Mr Campbell's main criticisms (feature, December 6) of the Home Office. These criticisms centred on the seriously misleading and ambiguous nature of the new civil defence regulations, the hitherto inadequate contribution made by Government departments and the general ineptness of the Home Office as the lead department for civil defence.

Though the Secretary of State announced to the House of Commons, on August 7, 1980, the result of a comprehensive review of civil defence it has taken the Home Office over three years to produce new regulations which seek to match the state of preparedness then deemed by Government to be appropriate to the nation's require-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doubts on democracy in Bangladesh

From Mr Peter Shore, MP for Bethnal Green and Stepney (Labour) and others

Sir, We are disturbed by recent events in Bangladesh and wish to note that the Queen's visit to that country was inopportune and another example of this Government's mishandling of foreign policy.

The visit of the Queen, presumably on the advice of her Majesty's Government, slotted very neatly into General Ershad's plans to obtain a semblance of democratic support for his repressive military regime.

A few days prior to the Queen's visit, the General ceased martial law and announced a schedule for the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections. A few days after her visit, he unveiled the political party which he hoped would be the vehicle for his aspirations. The party is named, somewhat ironically, *Jano Dal* or People's Party.

Despite the Queen's seal of legitimacy, General Ershad's well-laid plans have been thrown into disarray by last week's substantial demonstrations in the major cities of Bangladesh. The demonstrators, who included almost all the country's best-known civilian politicians, knew from past experience

that they opposed General Ershad at risk to their lives.

As happened in February, Ershad met peaceful opposition with army bullets (even the Government admits it killed four unarmed demonstrators) and with the reimposition of martial law, the arrest of many political leaders, and a draconian 23-hour curfew. The demonstrators were opposing the stage-management of democracy which was implicit in Ershad's phased elections. By his response to them, the General has indicated the shallowness of his commitment to democratic norms and institutions.

Britain's involvement in many aspects of Bangladesh life is considerable; so too is its influence. May we ask that our Government, which rightly trumpets the cause of democracy in Poland and Argentina, should also support that cause in Bangladesh, where political parties have again been banned, whose Government is based upon the brute force of martial law? Yours faithfully, PETER SHORE, SYDNEY BIDWELL, JAM MUKARJO, ERNIE ROBERTS, GEORGE ROBERTSON, House of Commons, December 7.

Prosecution by stores

From the Director of the Oxford Street Association

Sir, Greville Janner (December 2) must know that shopkeepers in London would be delighted to be rid of the burden of the private prosecution of alleged shop thieves. My members certainly feel that they have no alternative but to take private action as long as the Metropolitan Police refuse to operate a prosecution policy, in contradistinction to all other forces in the country.

This association, which includes Woolworth among its important members, has pressed three consecutive commissions on this point, the last occasion being as recently as November 11. I gather that now there may be no lack of will, but rather a shortage of qualified personnel in the legal department at Scotland Yard. A change of policy could therefore be implemented fairly quickly.

Prison crisis

From Professor Nigel Walker

Sir, Mr Rutherford's article, "Building up to a prison crisis", November 25) makes two objections to the new prison-building programme. The first is that it may not end the overcrowding because of the way in which prisoners are allocated (but allocation can be improved when space allows more flexibility).

Second, and more important, is the argument that the programme overestimates future needs, so that sentences will feel free to fill up surplus capacity. (At first sight this seems inconsistent with the first objection, but isn't quite).

The concealed assumption of the second objection is that we know the optimum level for the English prison population; and that it is less than - or at least no greater than - the present numbers. It would be nice if this were so, but is there any better justification for the assumption? We do not even know the criteria by which to define the optimum.

Yet we are told that 60 years ago Churchill "successfully embarked" on the course of economising in prison resources. The only sign of success which I can see is the very overcrowding about which everyone is rightly concerned. I am &c, NIGEL WALKER, King's College, Chesham Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire. November 25.

Sticking to the Bench

From Mr J. R. Spencer

Sir, Ex-Judge Bruce Campbell may be the first English judge to be sacked for smuggling whisky, but *The Times* (December 6) is wrong to say that "there is no precedent for the dismissal of an English judge". At least one exists in the removal of Judge William Ramsey, the Liverpool County Court judge, in 1851. *The Times*, incidentally, had a hand in it.

After receiving endless complaints about Judge Ramsey, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster held an enquiry which concluded - predictably, some would say - that there were no grounds for removing him from office.

The judge thereupon celebrated his non-dismissal by laying on a public banquet in his courthouse "in honour of the great principle of judicial independence, so long recklessly assailed in this town", at which he made a speech accusing the local newspapers of hounding his predecessor to his grave and

threatened retribution if they were rude to him.

The next day he had the editor of the *Liverpool Journal* arrested, fined and imprisoned for describing the speech, because the effect of the newspaper account "was to discompose his mind for the administration of justice that morning".

The affair now became national news, with *The Times* thundering for the judge's dismissal. The Chancellor then held a further enquiry and this time Ramsey was indeed removed from office - to spend the next two years in vain attempts to have his removal overturned in the courts.

Furthermore, in 1830 a superior judge, Sir Jonah Barrington, was removed by the King on the petition of both Houses of Parliament for stealing money paid into court; but as he was a judge and a thief in Ireland, English judges hold that he does not count.

Yours faithfully, J. R. SPENCER, Selwyn College, Cambridge.

attack. Although the study is unclassified the Home Office refuses to release it.

To my mind, the significance of Mr Hurd's response lies in the serious criticisms which he has chosen to ignore, particularly the one relating to which Government departments, if any, have yet prepared their civil defence plans for London. And this more than three years after the Home Secretary told Parliament "there will be greater involvement in civil defence planning... on the part of central Government departments".

The other letter from members of his own party confirms that the GLC is not alone in voicing its serious misgivings about the Government's own commitment to civil defence. Yours faithfully, SIMON TURNEY, Members' Lobby, Greater London Council, The County Hall, SE1. December 7.

By-passing Council on Tribunals

From Dr Peter Kay

Sir, Your leader of December 5 rightly brought to notice the role of the Council on Tribunals.

The Council has indeed been handicapped by Government restrictions on its powers and budget. Indeed, although it was recognised in 1958 that inquiries were likely to cause as many problems as tribunals, most types of public inquiry were for many years excluded from the council's purview altogether (a restriction achieved by the dexterity of the parliamentary draughtsman after the Lord Chancellor had given the House an assurance to the contrary).

Yet it is also the case that the Council has displayed a toothlessness and remoteness beyond that which it might reasonably attribute to its slender resources.

To take one example, in 1974 the chairman of the council commented that the council "did not share the view that there was a rising sense of public anger with the way in which road inquiries are conducted". By the end of 1976 three such inquiries had experienced large-scale disruption (with many arrests) precisely because objectors had received no response to rational argument and could see no other way forward.

In 1978 the council allowed its name to be associated with the *Review of Highways Inquiries Procedures*. White Paper which, whilst making some useful changes, evaded (apparently as the Department of Transport's insistence) the two aspects of inquiry procedure which had caused most dispute - the non-provision of evening sittings and transcripts - and did little to clarify the extent to which objectors may challenge the need for a scheme.

The Council has failed, at the strategic level, to tackle the fundamental problems raised by the practice of ministers holding inquiries into their own proposals - a system which has been condemned as farcical for nearly 50 years. It has failed, too, at the day-to-day level, for it has been reduced to sating objectors that it does not have the resources to take up complaints about the conduct of individual inquiries (despite which the Department of Transport still issues objectors with a guidebook stating that the council will do this).

As a result the council is now largely ignored in this field, many such complaints in recent years having been referred instead to the Ombudsman.

Yours faithfully, PETER KAY, 48 Park Avenue, N22. December 7.

From Mrs E. M. M. Goriely

Sir, In your editorial (December 5) on the Council on Tribunals you advocate steps to reorganize tribunals into "fewer and stronger units". I hope that this is a call for multifunctional units, not for more widely spaced tribunals. It is easy to forget, in London, how expensive and time-consuming cross-country travel may be for the very people tribunals are supposed to assist.

A decade ago I appealed to the Council on Tribunals against a decision of the "local" Rating and Valuation Tribunal that it would not meet except in a remote town inaccessible to local ratepayers by public transport. The council decided in my favour and I should regret any plan for "rationalization" (as you put it) of this sort.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

MARY GORIELY, Bwlich-cilian, Llanfawr Fawr, Bwlth Wells, Powys. December 5.

Venetian music

From the President of the Royal Academy of Arts

Sir, "What about the music?" cries Bernard Levin in his splendid trumpet fanfare to "The Genius of Venice". (Saturday, December 3).

What indeed. Nothing less than a Festival of Venetian Music to be presented at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, and St. George's Church, Hanover Square, from January 20 to February 2. Music and architecture to be enjoyed. Details from he knows where.

Yours etc, HUGH CASSON, President, Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1.

Local heritage

From Dr Hugh Ford

Sir, In this great era of new museums perhaps you will allow me the courtesy of your columns to suggest a National Museum of Roads and as an initial exhibit the last mile or so of the A10 that lies within Norfolk up to the Cambridgeshire boundary.

This unaffected and contorted stretch of main road contains all the outstanding features of our sadly vanishing main road system: it is very narrow, with many sharp bends, reversed camber, badly sited surface drains and sundry potholes. There are no unnecessary road signs, while under the seasonal layer of crushed sugar beet may be found the slippery and precocious metalised surface.

Unhindered by restrictions, the speed of passing traffic is equalled only by the pleasure boats on the adjacent river.

The preservation of this brief section of major trunk road, in what must surely be its original state, is a worthy reminder of the conditions with which our ancestors contended.

Yours faithfully, HUGH FORD, Brookdale, Church End, Sedgford, Near Hunstanton, Norfolk.

Great escapes to a haven of warmth



FOR
EVER
ENGLAND

First: see Fare Deal column.
Recommended north coast hotels:
Half Moon in Montego Bay,
Plantation Inn and Jamaica Inn,
Ocho Rios; Trident in Port Antonio.
A few more: the north coast
Schoa Street, London SW1X 9BZ
(01-750 7144).
Avis hire car for 10 days: £242.66.
The price of the north coast is
marginally less than London prices.
The price of Appleton Estate rum is
£11.00 about £2 a bottle.

Most of the tourist attractions –
beaches, parks, museums, shopping
restaurants, entertainments – are
along the North Coast between
Negrit and Port Antonio. The
interior, despoiled in the article,
and the south coast, have few
tourist facilities: neither are the
lines of communication entirely
dependable. Kingston is to be
avoided unless you have specific



But remember that as you need to go through Miami when travelling, for example, from Freeport to Montego Bay, you will use two flights. Thus your 10-flight pass gives a maximum of five destinations. If this is not enough, you can buy a second 5-flight pass.

Discounts
Poor passenger loads for the months ahead have forced the airlines to put plenty of discount deals on the market. But bear in mind that it will be difficult to get a seat during the peak month of December.

Most airlines are offering their discounts through Caribbean travel agents in Britain. You can locate these companies by looking through the advertisements in weekly newspapers such as *The Jamaican Weekie*, *Gleaner*, *The First Edition* and *The Observer*. If you shop around you should find it less difficult to find a seat.

Here are some examples of discounts available at present:

Stratford Travel is selling consolidation fares with Air Florida to Kingston and Montego Bay via Miami. In December the return fare is £405; it falls to £299 in January before rising to £335 in February/March and £355 in April.

Nipponair is selling direct flights to Kingston for £439 up to Christmas and from £355

return from the end of the year until the end of March. From January until the end of April its return fare to Port of Spain is £2370, Montserrat £384, Grenada £438, St Vincent £438, Bermuda £319, Nassau £359, Georgetown £448 and Antigua / Barbados / St Lucia all £353.

The cheapest routing to the British Virgin Islands is via San Juan with a change of plane in Nipponair is selling the following cut-price fares for travel from December 25 until June 14: San Juan for £316 and St

Finally, remember that you will need a visa for the United States if you travel via there and that includes San Juan.

Airlines: British Airways 01-370 5411; Air Florida 01-408 2882.

Agents: Stratford Travel Centre 01-519 4921; Nipponair 01-254 5738; Caribbean Travel 01-966 6280; Budget 01-741 8491; Hoffman Travel 01-323 3798.

Tour operators: Pegasus 01-370 8144; Tradewinds 01-734 1280; Kuoni 3 0305 885044.

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TYG/2

sent us back to the bar to lap up a little more courage. We eventually descended in a long, diagonal line, losing a couple of people en route on the way. They reappeared an hour later, just as the ski patrol was setting out to find them.

Rob Neillands

JAM

little after odds of accepting keys, beaches and no
rent punch.

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Start	Event	Host	1st Round	2nd Round	Items
3:00 P.m.	Costa del Sol	El Estero	2	H/B	\$149
3:00 P.m.	Costa del Sol	Costa del Sol	2	H/B	\$179
3:00 P.m.	Costa del Sol	Las Palmettas	2	H/B	\$169
6 P.m.	Costa del Sol	Pompetona Park	2+	H/B	\$169
6 P.m.	Gran Canary	"Simunau"	2+	S/C	\$1109
9 P.m.	Gran Canary	"Simunau"	3	H/B	\$225
9:30 P.m.	Gran Canary	San Club Ages	6	C/B	\$179
9:30 P.m.	Gran Canary	Escolanal	3	H/B	\$254
10 P.m.	Lanzarote	Reims, Mages, Las Agts.	3+	S/C	\$109
10 P.m.	Lanzarote	Reims, Las Agts	3+	S/C	\$129
20 P.m.	Lanzarote	Reims, Las Agts	3+	S/C	\$239
5:00 P.m.	Lanzarote	Reims, Las Agts	3+	S/C	\$1109
7 P.m.	Malaga	Banhamos, Sol	3+	H/B	\$179
7:30 P.m.	Malaga	Banhamos, Sol	3+	H/B	\$179
7:30 P.m.	Malaga	Jaramba Sol	3	H/B	\$105
10 P.m.	Tenerife	"Simunau"	2+	S/C	\$39
10 P.m.	Tenerife	"Simunau"	3	H/B	\$119
10 P.m.	Tenerife	Plaza de la Libertad	3	H/B	\$369
10 P.m.	Tenerife	Urbaniza Club	2+	S/C	\$129
3:00 P.m.	Tenerife	Los Dignos	4	H/B	\$279

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مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

TRAVEL/2

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Shopping list for the winter sails

Sometimes, I have to admit, crossing the Channel adds an unsought-for sense of adventure to a mid-winter break. I have survived some hair-raising ferry crossings, clinging to the gunwales of a bucketing boat in the teeth of the tempest rather than daring to look below decks at others' sickly expressions.

On most routes, be reassured, such trials are a thing of the past: bigger, faster boats with better stabilizers limit the risks of discomfort, or at least bring it to an end more speedily, while uncertain sailors can look to cross by hovercraft, knowing that if it is really rough they will not take to the water.

Distrust of the crossing is the

only conceivable reason for taking winter breaks in Britain rather than France, but even in winter, the seas can be millpond placid. Cheap winter fares on the ferries provide every incentive to take family and car across to France out of season. Hotel prices in Britain (even for the most heavily promoted winter breaks) make it look as though French hoteliers and restaurateurs are running a perpetual winter sale.

While the days are short no one will wish to motor far, but there is no need: in France the next good meal and comfortable hotel room are never far away.

Robin Young

Here, port by port, are some notes on possible destinations:

From Calais, Boulogne and Dunkerque

Arras (11 miles from Calais): A small and placid agricultural market town with a picturesque triangular and cobbled Grand-Place and agreeable walks by the lakes and along the double avenue of time travel to the south. The Grand Hôtel Central (tel 010 33 21 354066) is a well-appointed Relais du Silence with the vestiges of a grand reputation for cuisine. It has been in the Coolen family since 1917, but prices are now high by French standards (menus 120-230 francs) for food that depends more upon expensive ingredients than exquisite skill.

Le Relais (010 33 21 354200) is a more modest Logis de France with good bourgeois cooking (menus 53-150 francs). Less expensive still is La Bonne Auberge at Brèmes (010 33 21 354109) where the 58-franc menu centres on good family food such as coq au vin.

Arras (just over 70 miles from Calais and Boulogne): A splendid historic town (birthplace of Robespierre) with two spectacular squares surrounded by period houses in Flemish style, flamboyant buildings and a lively market. Stay at the Univers (010 33 21 341001), a converted monastery with rooms from 120 francs and meals from 65. The town's top restaurant, L'Ambassadeur (010 33 21 323980), pleases locals with duck with raisins flambéed with rum, or the blanquette of kidneys and sweetbreads (menus 70-115 francs). Otherwise head for Le Chanzy (010 33 21 210202), a traditional family place with rooms, an extraordinary wine list and good regional cooking. The local speciality is andouillette - tripe sausage.

Bergues (five miles from Dunkerque): A fortified Flemish village with ramparts and houses of ochre brick reflecting the colour of the deep drainage ditches of the agricultural plain. Nearby is Tethyem, where Jean-Pierre Delbe's La Mueuse (010 33 28 610048), a luxuriously remodelled mill, is

the best restaurant in north eastern France (menus 190-240 francs). The cooking is modern, refined and original.

Marquise (eight miles from Boulogne and 21 from Calais): Grand Café (010 33 21 928453), an old coaching inn bang on the main road, has a serious dining room off its courtyard. The menu runs from business lunches at 75 francs to the full degustation at 200. **Montreuil** (24 miles from Boulogne): a charming walled town made all the more attractive by two excellent and contrasting restaurants. Among the poplars by the river below the town La Grenouillère (010 33 21 060722) is quaint, rustic and idyllic. M Gauthier's cooking is irresistibly delicious - à la carte at about 150 francs. In town the Château de Montreuil (010 33 21 060011) beautifully positioned in its own gardens, is a luxurious outpost of the Roux brothers' school of nouvelle cuisine. Rooms 400 francs, meals 150-210 francs.

From Dieppe and Le Havre

Arques-la-Bataille (five miles from Dieppe): Picturesque feudal ruins and a deep majestic forest. The Manoir d'Archeville (010 33 35 85016) is an excellent Logis de France from which to explore the region.

Brittany Ferries: Portsmouth-St Malo, Plymouth-Roscoff. Weekend breaks from £30. Five-day returns from £51 for car and two adults. Five-day Go-A-You-Please car touring holidays from £102 a person. Relais and Châteaux hotel holidays from £173 (four nights). Golfing breaks from £102 (long weekend). Seaside apartments from £57 a person a week, with car. Gîte (cottage) holidays with car from £21 a person a week. A five-star insurance included free on all winter sailings.

Hoverspeed: Dover-Boulogne, Dover-Calais. Sixty-hour minibreaks from £35 return for car and two adults, five days from £52 for car and two adults.

P & O: Dover-Boulogne, Southampton-La Havre. Forty-



Rustic charm: La Citadelle at Montreuil, near Boulogne

Close by, at Vertus, is La Bucherie (010 33 35 848310) which locals regard as a better restaurant than any of Dieppe's (menus 90-140 francs).

Marin-Eglise, famous for trout, has the pretty Auberge Clos Normand (010 33 35 827101) with its gardens on the banks of a chalk stream (rooms from 100 francs, meals similar). **La Bouille** (just over 40 miles from either Dieppe or Le Havre): A favourite of Monet and the home of the Norman cheese which bears its name. Close to Robert-the-Devil's castle (now a waxworks), the forest of La Londe, the thirteenth-century church of Mouth-neux, and the splendid ruins of Jumieges Abbey.

The St Pierre (010 33 35 238010) has fine views from its rooms (180-250 francs) and delicious menus (120-180 francs) in its restaurant.

Fécamp (40 miles from Dieppe, 25 from Le Havre): A hardworking port, worth a stop to visit the bizarre Benedictine distillery and the more solemn grandeur of the Holy Trinity church. Le Maritime (010 33 35 282171) is the best of the modern restaurants along the quay: you will fare better though at the Relais des Dalles (010 33 35 274183), Sassetot-le-Mauconduit (menus 45-115 francs).

Varengville (five miles from

Dieppe): A cliff-top church and chapel with stained glass by Georges Braque, who is buried here, a Lutyns house with rhododendrons, medieval manor, lighthouse and deep-banked lanes of the Norman coastguard by Alan Titchmarsh (Vard Lock, £8.95). This is an ideal gift for new house owners who are having to tackle a garden for the first time.

Far removed from such practical problems is *Private Gardens of France* by Anita Perre and Gabrielle van Zuylen (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £30). This book is strictly for pleasure and, with the growing popularity of visiting gardens, could add greatly to the enjoyment of trips to France.

There are few gardeners who can be called great but the description does apply to Gertrude Jekyll. She has been dead for many years but her knowledge lives on through her books, which are being reintroduced by Papermac (Macmillan paperback), *Wood and Garden* (£6.95) and *Gardens for Small Country Houses* (£7.95) are classics.

Garden societies fulfil a need for the specialist and those that exist cover almost the whole range of plants. Top of the list is the Royal Horticultural Society. Membership costs £14 a year plus an initial enrolment fee of £5, entitling the member to a ticket for the Chelsea Flower Show and visits to the regular shows held at Vincent Square. Details from the RHS, Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, London SW1 (01-834 4333).

Membership of the Royal National Rose Society offers good value at £7. Members are entitled to visit the Rose Trial Grounds near St Albans, Hertfordshire, and also receive a

number of the society's publications. Details from the RNRS, Chiswell Green, St Albans (56 50461).

There are also specialist societies dealing with individual flowers such as heathers, iris, house plants and pelargoniums. I am president of the British Pelargonium and Geranium Society and of course have some love for these plants, which give much pleasure throughout the year both inside and outdoors. Write to me at *The Times* if you are interested in joining.

Garden tools and equipment provide a vast range from which to choose gifts. One new device on the market designed to make the perennial task of weed killing easier is the Murphy Tumbleweeder, a 39in weeding stick with a cartridge of Tumbleweed attached. It is available from most garden centres at £9.95.

Problems of keeping the garden watered were brought home once again this year.

Gift crops: Cassette hose (left), cold frame (top), mower (middle), shredder (right), pocket pruner (bottom).

There are many watering systems on the market and one I tried successfully was the Inhome Cassette Hose. It is a double-layered hose with outer and inner tube, does not kink and is easy to store. It garden centres or from Inhome, Sharnston Road, Manchester M22 4TH (061 945 2646).

Among many small quality tools on the market is the Wilkinson Sword Pocket Pruner at £6.95, which is ideal to carry round the garden to snip at offending branches. The Deluxe Sword Pruner at £15.95 is a more sturdy tool designed for the full range of pruning.

Wilkinson also markets a stainless steel spade covered by so many gardeners, not surprisingly since the work becomes so much easier with such a quality tool. It is priced at £35 but this varies from place to place, so it is worth shopping around.

Spear and Jackson, another quality manufacturer, is introducing a lawn mower range, I like the look of the Spearmo

More effective in the larger garden would be Spear and Jackson's V8085 ride-on mower, which cuts all but the roughest areas and has a reverse gear enabling it to get into largely inaccessible corners. It costs about £1,500.

A number of shredders are available to cope with the problem of getting rid of garden refuse which cannot be composted. One which effectively reduces hardwood prunings and herbaceous matter is the Black and Decker Shredder at £69.95. It is electrically operated and takes hardwood up to one inch in diameter.

A final suggestion for now is the Europa DIY Aluminium Garden Cold Frame at £32.95. It measures 4ft 2in by 2ft 2in, covers about 8 sq ft and can be assembled quickly.

Ashley Stephenson

15in Electric Hover, which costs £116.99. It is a robust machine, especially useful in the smaller garden.

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[illegible]

These are plastic pockets, designed to take either individual stamps or rows of stamps, which are stuck on to the album page. They come with either white or black backgrounds. Some albums have the mounts already in position: they are shown in the catalogues as 'singleless' albums.

A second alternative to the page is the stockbook, which

country may suffice for a time. The trouble with a bound volume is that it cannot be added to, and once the Canada page is over, and the France page is full there is nothing for it but to start a new volume. Bound albums make more sense if they are confined to one type of stamp. Stanley Gibbons offers an excellent album for Great Britain stamps, fully illustrated with stamps easier to handle and free of the risk of damage is a pair of tweezers. They can be had for as little as 75p. A magnifying glass (from 95p) is a useful aid and so is a perforation gauge (£1.60).

As for the use of stamps to collect, and where to get them, that will be the subject of our next article.

Peter Wavmark

year-olds will be run by Blake at 11.30am on Tues, Thurs, and Dec 19, 20. Tickets are free (though limited to £33 080). In the foyer Paul Hansard's Puppets give a free performance of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* at 5.30pm today and on Dec 17 in the Olivier foyer; and the Table Top Theatre Company, a Victorian toy theatre, presents a *Christmas Carol* with 12 puppets. Brothers at 5.45pm and 7pm on Mon, Tues, Wed in the Lyttelton foyer (free).

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT THE ZOO
The Regent Restaurant, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 (722 3334). Tomorrow at 8pm. Tickets £1.50 (at the Members' Gate, Outer Circle, Regent's Park).

An evening of international carols led by the Chandos Singers with international buffet and bar.

VANITY FAIR 1988-1914
Church Farm House Museum,

Almost your last chance to see this excellent exhibition of paintings, proofs and prints from the nineteenth-century magazine.

TAMARA COCO'S CIRCUS
Chessington Zoo, Chessington, Surrey (78 27222). Mon until Jan 6 (not Dec 17, 24, Jan 4) at 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Adults £2.15, children £1.10, including entrance to Zoo. A traditional circus spectacular with clown, acrobats, and others, but no performing animals.

LUNCHEON CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT AT LIBERTY
Regent Street, London W1. Until Dec 24, Mon-Sat noon-2pm. Free.
Most of the entertainment is Victorian in flavour and set in the Victorian Emporium. It includes a Purich and Judy show, Robert Styles's miniature toy theatre, magic lantern show, magician and juggler; plus concerts (third floor).

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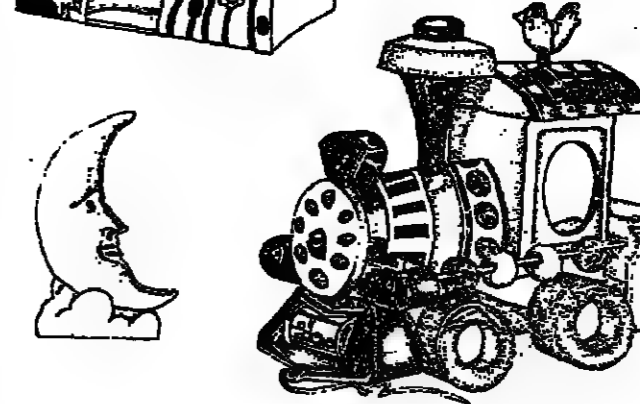
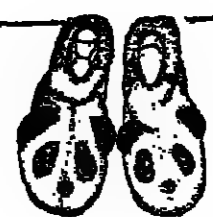
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also on page 30

... VALUES on presents for children

100 chain-store choices to toy with



UNDER FIVES

- 1 Big Chunky Chug-Chug see-through locomotive, with appropriate sound, £5.99, Debenhams.
- 2 Large fluffy grey seal, made in Israel, £12.99, Debenhams.
- 3 Brightly coloured wooden geometric sorting board, with shapes and pegs to fit into holes, by Plan Toys, £4.95, John Lewis.
- 4 Nurse's outfit by Cheryl Playthings, £7.95, suitable for three to five years, John Lewis.
- 5 Kinder tumbler with real skin top, made in China, wooden, £2.95, John Lewis.

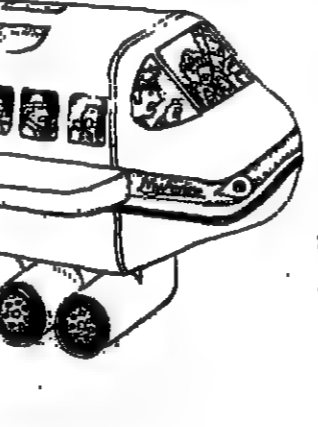
FIVE TO EIGHT

- 1 Highly popular this year are the Action Man Action Force figures by Paltoy: the force grows into a complete battleground with tanks, space weapons, goodies and baddies. Minton, one of the most popular items, are still going strong, £1.35 each, John Lewis.
- 2 Star Wars figures, one of last year's most popular items, are still going strong, £1.35 each, John Lewis.
- 3 The bright red Raleigh Apple Bike is designed primarily for girls in this age group, both saddle and handlebars adjustable, about £59, Debenhams and Raleighstockists.
- 4 For little girls who like to clown around at bedtime, Mothercare have some acrobat pyjamas, with neck ruff, in poly cotton, with a spotted design, £4.50.
- 5 Hours of fun and an unending stream of winnings can be guaranteed with a Golden Jackpot slot machine, by Waco, £29.95, Debenhams.
- 6 The ever-popular Rupert Bear features in a pack of five stories: £2.99, pack of six fairy stories, same price, Marks and Spencer.
- 7 My Airline is a white plastic aeroplane containing compartments for storing snacks and drinks, with wipe-clean air tickets, paper napkins, plates, cups, cutlery, trays, air-stewardess card and identity badge, measures 21cm by 17cm, £12.95, Woolworth.
- 8 The Fisher Price cassette recorder uses standard cassettes. Ideal for preventing your own being run, about £24.95, Woolworth and department stores.
- 9 To ensure a quiet night for dolls, Mothercare have a basket crib complete with ruffled pillow, quilt and valance, £13.95.
- 10 Calculators used to be very serious affairs, but now Snoopy has entered on the scene, and his calculator is available in yellow, pink or white, £4.95, Boots.
- 11 The House Martin post-office set contains a pay telephone, letter box, service counter, plastic coins, postage stamps, air mail stickers, vehicle tax discs, recorded delivery notes, postal orders; easy to assemble, £5.95, Boots.
- 12 For lazy days in the garden, a doll's garden chair in wood and red canvas, folds away, 60cm high, £3.50, Habitat.
- 13 Magic Slate, where drawings and numbers easily disappear, by Jakar, £1.95, from John Lewis.
- 14 Beatrix Potter furry figures for an enthusiast! Mr. Jeremy Fisher costs £18.95, House of Fraser.
- 15 No child will be able to say he's sick as a parrot with the Merrythought green and yellow cloth parrot on a swing, £7.50, House of Fraser and department stores.
- 16 Best Friends rag dolls, wearing check dresses and cheery expressions, £3.99 to £12.99 depending on size, House of Fraser.
- 17 Battery-operated attacking robot, made in Japan, about £9.95, House of Fraser and department stores.
- 18 The Escor wooden roundabout is beautifully made (in Britain), and would delight any child intrigued by fairgrounds, £12.95, House of Fraser.
- 19 The Chroma special agent pen writes in invisible ink, 70p, most department stores.
- 20 The Auto Scooter, a new idea this year, consists of two fairground dodgem cars with flashing lights, that work on any surface, £4.99 the pair, Debenhams.
- 21 There is a good selection of dressing-up outfits this year for the five to eight age group: Cheryl have Superman and Batman outfits, £8.95, a witch's outfit, £8.50, policeman's uniform, £11.50, all British made, John Lewis.
- 22 John Lewis also has horrible masks, £7.50 each - expensive, but they last for years, and neither children nor adults ever seem to grow out of them. Much nicer but

tube frame (no nuts, bolts or screws to complicate matters), measures 102cm by 76cm by 111cm, £12.95.

- 13 The Xylophone is a musical instrument on wheels: it can be used as a xylophone, and comes with a leaflet of simple popular tunes, but doubles as a push-along toy for the less musically inclined, £6.25, Mothercare.
- 14 Children are never too sophisticated for cuddly toys, and a variant on the teddy is Mothercare's super-soft polar bear, with blue cord bow and startling black eyes (these are safely locked so, they can't be pulled out), £6.50.
- 15 Any child who is a little frightened of the dark should love a technological version of the nightlight: a porcelain owl, swan, rabbit, or man in the moon softly lights up the bedroom with a 10W SBA pilot light, £9.95 each, Habitat.

- 16 Tin drums are now making a return to popularity: the FMT one made in Japan is especially attractive, £3.99, House of Fraser.
- 17 Any small child just starting out on the big adventure of play school would be reassured by Lucy Goes to Play School, 50p, one of a range of St Michael books for children of various ages, Marks and Spencer.
- 18 Animal slippers are always fun, and Marks and Spencer have some delightful panda ones, £2.99.
- 19 Spell 'N' Count is a colourful package consisting of learning cards, pen, eraser and letters, for three years upwards, £4.95, Woolworth.
- 20 British-made bright red pedal car, complete with dashboard display and gear-lever control, by Sharna Ware, £12.95, Woolworth.
- 21 The Bluebird yellow teapot is really a house: it contains family furniture plus a teacup-shaped car, £12.95, Woolworth.



War and peace: Minton, one of the Action Force figures (1), and My Airline (7), a gentle introduction to flying

EIGHT TO ELEVEN

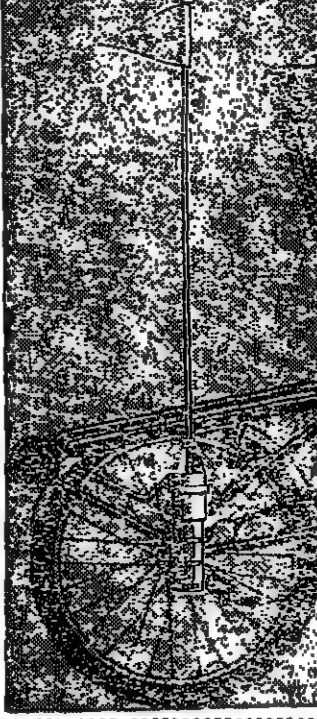
- 1 Logo Technik sets for space-age toys include a new design this year, suitable for nine years upwards, from £11.85, Debenhams and other stores.
- 2 For the fashion-conscious Milton Bradley Fashion Wheel contains all that is needed to create individual designs, including crayons, scissors, paper and felt instructions, £9.99 to £9.50, Debenhams.
- 3 Pocket micro-telescope, by Thomas Sather Science, £1.75, John Lewis.
- 4 Pac-man board game is a family version of the popular video and arcade game, you race the hungry Pac-man and watch him open and shut his mouth, £5.95, John Lewis and most stores.
- 5 For snooker fans, Table Top snooker will give an idea of the real game, measures 36in by 18in, £3.50, John Lewis.
- 6 Waddingtons Card Trick Collection, includes a 32-page booklet explaining all secrets, good fun for the Christmas holidays, £2.45, John Lewis and most stores.
- 7 Silk-screen printing set contains all you need, 15 sheets of paper, calico, colours, accessories and protective plastic apron, £15.95, Habitat.
- 8 Eureka Battleships is an electronic version of the traditional game, good fun for all the family over Christmas and beyond, £25.95, Woolworth.
- 9 Concise Oxford Dictionary of Ballet, a sensible, non-patronizing book for all intrigued by this art, £5.95, W. H. Smith and most large bookshops.
- 10 The answer to that plaintive cry over Christmas holidays, What Can I Do today? lists dozens of exciting projects, published by Purnell, £2.50 from most stores.
- 11 A well-produced version of a classic, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, £1.75, Marks and Spencer.
- 12 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Celebrated Cases of Sherlock Holmes, £3.99, Marks and Spencer.
- 13 With the BMX craze sweeping the country, Raleigh has come into the market with a reasonably priced selection of these bikes: They include Super Tuff, £150, Mag Burner, £120, Night Burner, £110, Super Burner, £115, from all Raleigh stockists.
- 14 Essential BMX gear: helmet £15.50, goggles £5.50, gloves £6.50, jacket £15, trousers £22, Raleigh stockists.
- 15 For girls, the Raleigh pink Bianca bike costs £75.
- 16 Seamed drawer liners in wild rose or apple blossom, for the conscious children, £1.99 British Home Stores.
- 17 Grown-up stationery items are always popular with this age group: a long tube with a pen and sharpener, £7.45, Boots.
- 18 Postcard album, to keep holiday postcards, £1, W. H. Smith.
- 19 The Fame make-up and disguise kit contains lipgloss, glittery make-up and nail varnish, aeroplanes, £7.45, Boots.
- 20 The Crayola Design Kit contains all the instruments and equipment needed to design cars, tanks, aeroplanes, £7.45, Boots.
- 21 College Set comprising fountain pen, ruler, set square, felt tip pen, compass, £2.75, Boots.
- 22 Make Your Own Noah's Ark, a book that becomes an activity for the patient and nimble-fingered (all you need, it says, is scissors and glue), published by Angus and Robertson, £4.95, from Boots and most stores and bookshops.
- 23 For dance-mad girls, a lede and cerise leotard, £3.55 to £4.50, matching exercise exercise skirt, £2.50, Mothercare.
- 24 Meccano is enjoying a revival - and a new look: choose from a range going from single vehicle packs to motorized models according to the skill and patience of the young engineer: action packs from £2.50, motorized packs from £9.50, by Paltoy, from most stores.
- 25 For potential Mensa members, the Book of Puzzles and Brain teasers, 99p, Marks & Spencer.

Fame make-up kit (19)

ELEVEN TO FOURTEEN

- 1 The Royal Year by Tim Graham describes clearly in the life of the Royal Family, £1.99, Guinness Sporting Fats, for those who want to be sure, £3.25, Marks and Spencer.
- 2 The new Light Rider bicycle rear light is a long tube with a permanent attached; the flexible tube lights up from top to bottom, emitting a powerful orange glow which means the cyclist can be seen from any angle. In two sizes, 18in and 24in, £4.99 or £5.49, Woolworth.
- 3 For a teenage bedroom, corduroy bean bag in dark brown, with fire-retardant beads, £19.95; brass-plated table lamp with shell-shape shade, £29.95, Boots.
- 4 Tervill and Dean by John Hennessy, best-selling biography of the amazing skating stars, published by David and Charles, £7.95, from Boots, W. H. Smith and other stores.
- 5 Blue, yellow and red plastic bath and shower cap, £1.45, Boots.
- 6 Steam-styling brush, with flexible bristles to prevent tangling, £8.95, Marks and Spencer.
- 7 Silver-plated tiny photo frames, set of three, £6.99, Marks and Spencer.
- 8 Laura Ashley Eau de Toilette, 100ml, £5.25.
- 9 Laura Ashley bone china pomander, £8.40.
- 10 The 1984 Journal has big cream pages and a cream cover, pretty and functional, £6.50, Boots.
- 11 Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales, grown-up versions of children's favourites, published by Routledge and Kegan Paul, £4.95, from W. H. Smith and most bookshops.
- 12 Most older children are fascinated by unusual stationary; this year, W. H. Smith's has some attractive stationary drawers full of paper and envelopes, £3.99.
- 13 Cassette Carroussel to hold 20-32 cassettes, puts them out of danger of being trodden underfoot in teenage bedrooms, £2.75, W. H. Smith.
- 14 Leavers in 100 per cent wool, in top teenage shades of grey and cream, £4.99, Marks and Spencer.
- 15 To put work on a pink (or blue) cloud, Smith's have some cloud-shaped cloud-entertainer binders, also an umbrella design, £1.99 each.
- 16 Silver Reed Silhouette typewriter, £37.50; other models £39.50 to £49.50, W. H. Smith.
- 17 Giant Springbok Compass, with Safety first for bicyclists (2)

- pen and technical attachments, for serious geometers, £4.25, W. H. Smith.
- 18 Blue Cowhide Wallet in very soft leather, with lots of compartments, £12.99, Boots.
- 19 White, light blue and dark blue sporty bag, made in Hongkong, for sports gear or weekends, £8.95, Boots.
- 20 Delicate jewelry by André Gerard, real lapis lazuli, turquoise, onyx or coral; sample prices: necklace £9.99, earrings £5.50, rings £4.50, bracelets £5.50, large branches of Boots.
- 21 Catch a Fire: The Life of Bob Marley by Timothy White, for all fans of the above, published by Elm Tree Books, £9.95, from Boots, W. H. Smith, and most bookshops.
- 22 Black box of cosmetics, containing everything needed for early experimentation, £4.99, Marks and Spencer.
- 23 Pure wool beret in bright, jewel shades of fuchsia, jade, red, blue, £2.49, Woolworth.
- 24 To match the above, fingerless gloves in similar shades, £1.49, Marks and Spencer.
- 25 Calculators are still getting cheaper and better: Sharps have a range of scientific calculators at less than £10; the Casio Solar calculators, which run without batteries, £9 from £5 to £12, Boots and main high street electrical stores.



War and peace: Minton, one of the Action Force figures (1), and My Airline (7), a gentle introduction to flying

Experts expound on the proof of puddings

Welcome to our Great Pudding Hunt. Traditional Christmas takes so much time to prepare that fewer people every year are willing to shred and chop and stir and boil when there are so many ready-prepared alternatives. But can a shop-bought pudding or cake ever match the home-made? The ingredients sound good, the price offers good value in terms of time saved. Could you possibly pass them off as your own? We decided to find out.

First we summoned the puddings. We chose two smart stores (Fortnum & Mason and Harrods) three chain stores (Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury and Tesco), two nationally distributed brands (Mrs Peck's and Robertson's), and one guardian of our heritage (The National Trust).

Then we invited our jury. Glyn Christian, the BBC Breakfast Time cook and Shona Crawford Poole, his counterpart at the Times, were our experts. Robin Young, Times writer, diner and winner and member of the British Academy of Gastronomes was our token diner-out and Amy Franks, star of Alan Franks's Diary (Wednesday Page) was our token five-year-old.

We assembled at the Dorchester, where Swiss cook Anton Mosmammann had arranged to have our puddings boiled for the recommended times - anything from one to four hours. He had given each one a code letter and made charts so that the jury could give marks for appearance, taste, texture, smell, quality, value for money, package and general impression. All tremendously professional for, as Mr Mosmammann said, one has to be fair to the puddings, a remark which had more than a touch of "Alice-pudding, pudding-Alice" about it.

Amy cut the first slice - a wedge that would probably have capsized her had she eaten it all, but she obviously thought this whole exercise was not for the faint-hearted, and anyway she had already told us that the best things about Christmas were the presents, the turkey and the pudding, in that order. One wondered about the size of turkey she had in mind.

Her fellow jurors, appraised and sniffed and forked and chewed and scribbled on their charts. They were not told until the end of the tasting which



Pensive: from left, Shona Crawford Poole, Amy Franks, Glyn Christian, Robin Young

pudding was which, but for ease of comparison, they are now listed in alphabetical order.

Fortnum & Mason: "Oh, Harrod," GC said with the look of a man who has bitten into an unripe persimmon. "It tastes of artificial lemon essence and too much of it. It's got a household cleaner taste."

"Coniferous", SCP said. "Polish", RY said (as in Mr Sheen, not Pope John Paul). "Horrible", said Amy. On present performance I fear she is unlikely to make the Diplomatic Corps, but then neither would her fellow jurors.

Harrods: Amy and RY were immediately impressed by the appearance - an amazing high gloss that would not have looked out of place on a ship's hull. It reminded GC of his mother's sago-based puddings in New Zealand: SCP found it "repulsive". "Puddings should glisten not shine."

GC liked the colour, dark on the outside and lighter in the middle. "The colour has come from cooking not gravy browning." The flavour was "not all that bad, although the bits of peel are very intrusive. Texture a little disappointing because I like a bit of chew."

SCP thought the sticky texture cloying; RY found it too sweet and heavily citrus. Amy refused to be influenced by all this expert opinion and pronounced it very good and much better than being at school.

Mrs Peck's: Rather a non-event. GC liked the chewy texture and "didn't mind" the taste. RY thought it boring. Amy made no comment which so disconcerted GC and SCP that they embarked on a long debate on Puddings Throughout History, or Pudding: Its Social Relevance. Unimpressed by such erudition, Amy made it clear that we ought to get back to the job in hand.

National Trust: SCP liked the round shape but was not impressed by the uneven colour and thought the pudding too dry. GC rather liked bits of it "but it doesn't have the satisfyingly long aftertaste that all rich foods should have. It has rather a cloyant appearance, but that comes from having been boiled in a cloth. If we were doing this 100 years ago we wouldn't think that very unusual - we are just showing how young we all are."

The only member of the party who could possibly be thus described declared unequivocally that she didn't like the outside and as the considered opinion of a five-year-old is the most effective way of ruining any festive meal, further argument was pointless.

Robertson's: SCP approved the nuts but thought it looked too much like an ordinary

St Michael: Immediate approval of its roundness and aroma. "That smells more like it", SCP said, "good and spicy." RY: "It looks expensive - the first one with cherries and nuts I can taste - a lovely after flavour." Amy, halfway through chewing a whole cherry, waved her spoon imperiously and said: "I prefer that one (Marks & Spencer) just as much."

Tesco GC: "I had high hopes of this one - it looks terrific. I want a pudding to be high so that people can focus on it after a large meal. I would believe that it was home-made - even with the slight imbalance of the molasses. It would be all right if it was custard." (Shrieks of horror until he explained that he served an orange-flavoured zabaglione with his puddings.) SCP: "Undistinguished but in the tradition of Christmas pudding." RY marked it among his top three and when he heard the price thought it excellent value. Amy, flagging but determined to contribute: "Not very tasty."

So, with a remarkable degree of unanimity, the cooks, the diner-out and the Young Person's Right to be Heard representative decided that the pudding they would all like to see on their tables this Christmas was by Marks & Spencer.

The professional tasters put Tesco second and Harrods third, while the rising starlet stuck to her preference for the gloss of Harrods. Future admirers would do well to start saving now.

Beryl Downing

Store	Time	Weight	Price
Fortnum & Mason	Traditional Christmas pudding flavoured with brandy & Jamaica Rum	1 1/2 lb	£7.95
Harrods	Christmas pudding with chopped cherries and walnuts	1 1/2 lb	£9.00
Mrs Peck's	Luxury recipe Christmas pudding with stout and rum	1 lb	£7.95
National Trust	Christmas pudding made to a nineteenth century recipe	1 1/2 - 2 lb	£4.35
Robertson's	Traditional Christmas pudding	3 1/2 lb	£8.95
Sainsbury	Luxury Christmas pudding with brandy and rum	4 lb	£12.95
St Michael	Luxury Christmas pudding, contains cherries, walnuts and brandy	2 1/2 lb	£7.95
Tesco	Traditional Christmas pudding contains cider and rum	2 1/2 lb	£7.95



Cutting comments that really take the cake

Six of the pudding-makers we chose also offer cakes, so we asked Shona Crawford Poole to represent the cooks and Robin Young, the customers in a second tasting. Appearance was more important than in the puddings (which could be dressed up with holly and set alight to cover inadequacies) and smell, taste and texture of cake, most cooks and icing were all taken into consideration.

Fortnum & Mason (3lb cake including decoration to order £11). RY liked the decoration; SCP thought it lurid. Both found the smell very synthetic. Their joint marks out of 20 for taste: 7.

Harrods (4lb, £10.50). Appearance was criticised as "the whole farmyard - ribbon, Santa, snow, holly, reindeer, Christmas tree." It was the hardest to cut, but the slices remained whole. The smell was surprisingly almond, but the cake was a good colour, very fruity with visible nuts. Marks for taste: 14.

Marks & Spencer (3lb 12oz, £8.50). Both tasters disapproved of the plastic decoration. "I'd take it off, like taking the buttons off a cheap frock," SCP said. Both thought it lacked interest although icing texture was light and thick and marzipan tasted as it should. Alcohol content detectable. Marks for taste: 10.

National Trust (2lb 8oz, £5.35). Appearance could not be judged as it comes uniced, but SCP thought the mixture looked like bread pudding rather than Christmas cake. Both detected a strong citrus flavour as if it had been made from fermenting orange peel. Verdict: "Absolutely extraordinary." Marks for taste: 3.

Sainsbury (3lb 8oz, £6.45). Purple ribbon thought to be elegant by SCP, funereal by RY. Smell fruity and nice, marzipan "a bit lurid". The taste was disappointing: "The marzipan was bitter with almond essence (SCP)." "I would actually consider taking it back to the shop and asking if it should be like that" (RY). Marks for taste: 0.

Tesco (3lb 8oz, £5.99). Decorated with a "wonderfully tasteless Father Christmas". The

icing was soft and crumbly and the cake too blonde. "It looks and tastes dead - as you would expect Miss Haversham's wedding cake to taste" (SCP). Marks for taste: 0.

Overall there was much less enthusiasm for the cakes than for the puddings, but as SCP pointed out cakes are much more difficult to make. If she had to buy a cake she would choose the Harrods one. Both she and RY gave it their top marks for taste, smell and texture, with Marks & Spencer second. The rest they would not buy.

I have to tell you, though, that they were hard judges to please. A quick round-up of non-connoisseurs produced agreement on Harrods and Marks & Spencer (good) and on National Trust and Tesco (not good), but disagreement on Fortnum & Mason and Sainsbury, both of which were pronounced "all right". Which seems to indicate that if you haven't got a top cake in the family, you can find something acceptable without spending top prices.

B.D.

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Thursday's child full of power and promise

Stockhausen: *Donnerstag* was Licht Various performers/Stockhausen (Deutsche Grammophon 2740 272, four records)

There can be no doubt that records exist, like books, to publish what is important, achieved among us, and Stockhausen's seven-opera cycle *Licht* looks like being one of the most remarkable achievements of this fin de siècle. *Donnerstag* "Thursday's entertainment", is the only part of the heptology yet completed, and no doubt its meaning will be clearer and richer when it can be understood in context. What is already very evident, though, is that Stockhausen has the inventive power and the long-term planning to sustain such an enterprise. He also has the capacity for bewildering variety. *Donnerstag* includes everything from great ceremonial fanfares to tentative pieces of vocal chamber music, from a trumpet concerto to vast choral frescoes. It even goes all the way from genius to insanity.

Also recommended: Francis: *Symphony Orchestra National/Garnier* (Deutsche Grammophon 2532 050, compact disc 400 070-2)

This has been the year of the compact disc, whose clarity is a special benefit in letting one hear Bernstein's driving, impassioned live performance of a work now enjoying welcome rehabilitation. Mozart: *Cool fan tutte* Soloists, Vienna Philharmonic/Muti (EMI SLS 1435 163, three records)

A festival opera: the recording was made at Salzburg last year, and it captures the glamour of huge talents working at a keen pitch of excitement and understanding. It is also intimate drama in magnificent style, the east being led by Margaret Marshall, Agnes Baltsa and Francisco Araiza.

Boulez: *Pli selon pli* Bryn-Julson, BBC Symphony Orchestra/Boulez (Erato NUM 75050, two records)

Pli selon pli is a musical voyage into the mind of Mallarmé, but it is also the biggest thing Boulez has yet done: a constellation of five movements for soprano, chiming percussion and orchestra lasting well over an hour. The new recording lingers over its sumptuous beauties.

Wagner: *Tristan und Isolde* Soloists, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra/Bernstein (Philips 6788 091, five records)

The Christmas present for anti-Wagnerians, since anyone else

Critic's choice Paul Griffiths

will already have it, and even the most convinced Wagnerophile may be persuaded by Bernstein's wholesale engagement in the score, as well as by Hildegard Behrens's vividly active Isolde. Pater Hofman is as golden a Tristan as exists at the moment, but the main interest is in the soprano and in the deeply felt accompaniment.

Brahms: *21 Hungarian Dances* Vienna Philharmonic/Abbado (Deutsche Grammophon 2560 100) Celebrating the other great anniversary of the year, The Vienna Philharmonic have a ball, and Abbado takes his task seriously enough for this to be a justifiable choice against all the other volumes of the Deutsche Grammophon Brahms Edition.

Also recommended: Richard Strauss: *Four Last Songs* Nana Szeles/Orchestra Gewandhaus (Philips 6514 322)

Not since Kirsten Flagstad has there been a voice on record to bring the full vigour and richness of the lower register to support and charge the extraordinary sense of suspended time and texture within Strauss's *Four Last Songs*. Jessye Norman can do this, and much more. Her response to the songs is distinctive and penetrating, as she fuses sensuous sound quality with acute musical intelligence, judging the precise pressure and colour of each word and shaping each phrase with Kurt Masur's live, translucent, arching guitar.

The six orchestral songs on the other side include a "Zueignung" of rare internal repose, a "Wiegelielied" of long, sustained half-tone, and a vibrant, rapt "Cacilie".

Also recommended: Fauré: *Mélodies* von Stade/Collard (EMI ASD 4183)

Suggestion, allusion and nuance oscillate vividly between the highly intelligent soprano of Frederica von Stade and the deft piano playing of Jean-Philippe Collard in a satisfyingly balanced selection of songs early and later, popular and less well known.

Prokofiev: *Cinderella* Aikhenyazy/Cleveland Orchestra (Decca 410 182-1D12, two records)



Musical staves: The look of the masters. From left, Stockhausen, Liszt, Glass, Bizet, Strauss, Boulez and Monteverdi

At last, a singer fit for the songs

Critic's choice Hilary Finch

Two complete Candelas have recently filled a gap in the catalogue: with its urbane phrasing and brightly characterful woodwind detail, this version captures most clearly Candelas's and Prokofiev's double vision of the ironic adult and the wide-eyed child, and conveys in its very poise the fragility of the thread connecting the two.

Liszt: *Schubert Songs* Transcriptions Jorge Bolet (Decca SXL 7569)

Liszt's own response to Schubert, our remembered responses to his songs and Jorge Bolet's own obvious delight in the transcription as a form fuse together in 12 performances (including "Die Forelle", "Wohin?", "Erkennung", which are no mere virtuoso showpieces but scintillating recreations of the imaginative insight of both composers).

Chausson: *Poème de l'amour et de la mer* Ménégoz/Armstrong (Erato NUM 75059)

A record as valuable for bringing more separate Chausson songs, including his "Chanson Perpetuelle", back into the catalogue as for the thoroughly idiomatic proportion between restraint and opulence in its intuitive, full-hearted vocal and orchestral responses.

Britten: *Our Hunting Fathers* (Folk Songs) Söderström/Armstrong/Welsh National Opera Orchestra (EMI ASD 4397)

Not before time, a female-voice recording, as first conceived by Britten, of his startlingly ingenious and harrowing settings of Auden on man's inhumanity to man and beast. Richard Armstrong whips the WNO Orchestra into vivid support here and in the delightfully orchestrated folksong settings on the other side.

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Prokofiev: *Cinderella* Aikhenyazy/Cleveland Orchestra (Decca 410 182-1D12, two records)

Flourishing arts of earlier centuries

Critic's choice Nicholas Kenyon

Ce Diabolique Chant The Medieval Ensemble of London (L'Oiseau-Lyre Florilegium DSD 704) Monteverdi: *Il Ballo dello Ingrato* Legnini d'amante Les Arts Florissants/William Christie (Harmonia Mundi France HM 1108)

Baroque Les Bonisoles Soloists, Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists/John Eliot Gardiner (Erato STU 715343, three records)

With the temporal boundaries of early music becoming ever wider, it would be invidious to choose between these three superb additions to our understanding of the fourteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Medieval Ensemble's command of the incredible intricacies of the French repertoire between Machaut and Dufay is unrivalled.

Also recommended: Bach: *Brandenburg Concertos* The English Concert/Trevor Pinnock (Archiv 274003, two records)

Also recommended: Mozart: *Symphonies Vol 8* Academy of Ancient Music/Christopher Hogwood and Jaap Schröder (Oiseau-Lyre Florilegium, D17204, four records)

Pachelbel, Bach, Handel, Vivaldi Musica Antiqua Cologne/Rainhard Goebel (Archiv 2566 127)

Better recordings of these pieces will doubtless be made, but this year both Pinnock's Brandenburgs and the final group of Hogwood's Mozart symphonies marked a new technical virtuosity and an ever-advancing command of stylistic practice for English players. The most brilliantly enjoyable period-instrument performances these days, however, come from the Cologne group on their exhilarating sampler.

Also recommended: Bach: *Brandenburg Concertos* The English Concert/Trevor Pinnock (Archiv 274003, two records)

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Ravished by moving in glittering circles

Critic's choice John Higgins

Bizet: *Carmen* Baltsa/Ricciarelli/Carreras/Van Dam: Berlin Philharmonic/Karajan (Deutsche Grammophon 2741 025, compact disc 410 088-2 GH 3, both three records)

It has been the year of the compact disc and nowhere has the difference in sound quality between these gleaming silver circles and the conventional black disc been more evident than in Deutsche Grammophon's *Carmen*. And any recording deficiencies too, the cynics would add. The error of using a double cast, one to sing and one for the spoken dialogue, comes out all too clearly. But there is Baltsa's animal *Carmen*, Carreras's romantic Jose and above all Karajan and the Philharmonic. A set to ravish the ear.

Also recommended: Massenet: *Manon* Cotrubas/Kraus/Quilico/Van Dam; Toulouse Capitole Orchestra/Plasson (EMI SLS 1731413, three records, cassette TC-SLS 1731415)

If EMI had managed to bring out Massenet's *Manon* on compact by the end of the year then it would have been a

challenger for first place. It was possibly the most imaginatively cast opera set of 1983, with Cotrubas as a natural in the title role and Kraus, as seductively voiced as ever, as Des Grieux.

Charles Dutoit's reputation is not sufficiently high in this country, or in his native Switzerland for that matter. His control of the Montreal Symphony on this record should help make amends.

Also recommended: Offenbach: *Pommes d'Api*, Monseigneur Chouffleur, Mesdames de la Halle Mesples, Lafont, Puccini: *Manon Lescaut*, the Philharmonic/Rosenthal (EMI SLS 1731743, three records, cassette TC SLS 1731745)

Stage performance does not always transfer well, but in this triple bill EMI have achieved it with a little discreet tinkering with the cast, seen at Paris's Salle Favart in *Vive Offenbach!* Great carver here from the Monte Carlo orchestra under Manuel Rosenthal and thoroughly stylish performances all round.

Vardi: *Falstaff* Brunson/Ricciarelli/Nucci; Los Angeles Philharmonic/Giulini (Deutsche Grammophon 2741 020, compact disc 410 088 030)

I would like to have included in this list Sinopoli's opera debut on record *Nabucco*, which was not as well received as it should have been in some quarters. But the fifth place has to go to Giulini's interpretation of *Falstaff*, wide and autumnal. There are some casting weaknesses, but it is for Giulini himself, in a year which seems to have gone to conductors rather than singers, that I chose this set.

Opera on Record II edited by Alan Blyth (Hutchinson, £5)

Having been rather greedy in choosing complete opera for four of the five places, I will be a little more modest and select a book for the sixth. Alan Blyth's survey has moved into volume two this autumn, with volume three promised next year. There is no need to agree with all his contributions, although some are beyond reproach, but this is an invaluable reference book, scrupulously edited.

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PREVIEW Guide to holiday services

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The traditional festival of nine lessons and carols now competes in popularity with the newer Christmas service, often held in aid of the Church of England Children's Society.

The Christmas is an orange, symbolizing the world, pierced with four sticks of fruit (the seasons) and a candle (the Light of the World), tied with a ribbon (the blood of Christ). During the service children receive Christmas gifts as thanks for their collections for the society. Then the candles are lit.

The festival of nine lessons and carols was designed by E. W. Benson, Bishop of Truro and later Archbishop of Canterbury. It first appeared on Christmas Eve 1880 in a wooden shed that served the three-year-old Truro diocese while the cathedral was being built. Nine carols were interspersed with short lessons read by church officers, beginning with a chorister and ending with the Bishop.

Southwest Cathedral: Dec 18, 3pm, carol service. Dec 21, 12.45pm, lunchtime carol sing-in with Lord Miles.

Southwest Metropolitan Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 21, 7pm, carols, readings, dance and tableaux.

Westminster Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 20, 7.30pm, carols and readings by candlelight, attended by Princess Anne.

Westminster Abbey: Dec 26, 3pm, Evensong with carols and procession. Dec 28, 3pm, procession and carols.

Central Hall, Westminster (Methodist): Dec 18, 6.30pm.

Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, EC1 (Methodist): Dec 14, 12.45pm.

The service was soon adopted by other churches, but it was King's College, Cambridge which, after revising the order to place *Once in Royal David's City* at the beginning, spread its popularity with annual broadcasts starting in 1928.

This year King's College has commissioned a new carol, *When Thou Wast Born in Wintertime*, composed by Sir Lennox Berkeley to words by Betty Askwith. William Walton's *All This Time* and Elizabeth Poston's *Jesus Christ, the Appletree*, both settings of anonymous works, are revived, but the last carol is as always *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. The service is at 3pm on Christmas Eve, broadcast live on Radio 4 and repeated on the World Service on Christmas Day. To attend, you will need to queue from 10am for one of the 1,500 seats.

However, it should be easy to get a seat for one of the other services in the selection listed.

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Southwest Metropolitan Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 21, 7pm, carols, readings, dance and tableaux.

Westminster Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 20, 7.30pm, carols and readings by candlelight, attended by Princess Anne.

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Central Hall, Westminster (Methodist): Dec 18, 6.30pm.

Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, EC1 (Methodist): Dec 14, 12.45pm.

3.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols. Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 18, 4pm, carols and readings.

Cardiff, Conway Road Church (Methodist): Dec 18, 6.30pm, carols by candlelight.

Cardiff City Hall: Tomorrow, 8pm, Salvation Army carol service.

Llandaff Cathedral: Dec 24, 3.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Llanelli Entertainment Centre: Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Salvation Army carol service.

Newport Cathedral: Dec 23, 7.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

St Asaph Cathedral: Dec 17, 3pm, Christmas service. Dec 18, 3.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

St David's Cathedral: Dec 25, 6pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Swansea, Brunswick Church, St Helen's Road (Methodist): Dec 18, 11am, Christmas drama and music; then 6.30pm, carols and readings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Armagh Cathedral: Dec 18, 3.15pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Armagh Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 18, 7pm, carols and readings.

Belfast Cathedral: Dec 18, 3.30pm and Dec 24, 8pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Belfast, Craigagh Church (Presbyterian): Dec 18, 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Belfast, Fishwick Church (Presbyterian): Dec 18, 7pm, candlelight carol service.

Belfast Salvation Army, Craigagh Road: Dec 18, 6.30pm.

Lurgan Salvation Army, Union Street: Dec 18, 6.30pm.

Wales

Bangor Cathedral: Dec 22, 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Brecon Cathedral: Dec 24, 3.30pm, carols and blessing the crib. Jan 1, lessons and carols.

Edinburgh, Usher Hall: Dec 18, 6.30pm, Salvation Army carol service.

Dundee Cathedral: Dec 24, 11.30pm, midnight carol service.

Glasgow Cathedral: Dec 24, 11.15pm, midnight carol service.

Glasgow Cathedral (Roman Catholic): Dec 21, 7pm, carols and readings.

Rutherglen Old Parish Church, Strathclyde: Tomorrow, 3pm, Salvation Army carol service.

Wales

Bangor Cathedral: Dec 22, 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

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PREVIEW Theatre



Guest stars: Ramolakhene (left), John Kani, Duart Sylwain of Johannesburg's Market Theatre Company 'Master Harold... And The Boys', at the Cottesloe until Feb 25

Critics' choice

THE HARD SHOULDER (836 6404) Final performance today at 5.30pm and 8.30pm. Enjoyable but comical Stephen Moore as a fledgling property tycoon unexpectedly joined by motley company and thoughtful, it combines observed social satire with sinister political parable.

HAY FEVER (724 1166) Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 5 and 8.15pm; matinees Wed 2pm and Noel Coward's 1920s comedy about a theatrical family their mixed bag of persecuted guests remaining hilarious by any number of revivals, and Keith takes to the leading's part as though to the backwash.

MAYDAYS (838 8891/828 8) Today at 2pm and 7.30pm; performances Mon-Fri 7.30pm begins Dec 17

BIRMINGHAM: Repertory (021 236 4455). Hello, Dolly! Jerry Herman. Until Dec 10: Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm at 4pm.

BRIGHTON: Theatre Royal (023 28488). Amadeus by Peter Shaffer. Final performance today at 2.30pm and 8.15pm. (Transferring to Croydon).

EDINBURGH: Royal Lyceum (031 225 897). Regards to Broadway by Benny Green. Preview: Thurs at 7.30pm, opens Dec 17 at 7.30pm. Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs 2.30pm.

BRISTOL: Theatre Royal, Old (022 24388). The Crucifer of Blood by Paul Giovanni. Until 17, Mon-Fri at 7.15pm, Thurs at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs (Dec 15) at 3pm, Sat at 4pm. 1 performance Dec 12

BRISTOL: New Vic (022 2438). The Sacchae by Euripides, translated by Peter Amery. Until Dec 17, Mon-Fri at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm. No performance Dec 12

CROYDON: Ashcroft (088 828 828). The Sound of Music. Austen, adapted by David Pownall. Final performance today at 5pm and 8.15pm

Out of Town

CAMBRIDGE: Theatre Company on tour, with Patsy Townsend, Peter Salis, Patrick Drury, Tess Peake-Jones, directed by Bill Pryde.

AMARU by Peter Shaffer. Opens Mon at 7.45pm. Until Dec 17, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm. Sat at 4pm.

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Legal minefield in never-never-land

"Never", Sean Connery used to say when asked to play James Bond again after relinquishing the role in 1971. Yet here he is older, less jaunty, but still primed for action - trying to prevent the world's destruction in a renege Bond adventure, aptly titled *Never Say Never Again*.

The film opens in Britain on Thursday after months of post-production delays and years of lawsuits, involving the trustees of Ian Fleming's will. United Artists and Danjaq S.A., producers of the latest Roger Moore-James Bond film, *Octopussy*, released this summer, also put in their pennyworth. Not for nothing was *Never Say Never Again* produced by a lawyer, Jack Schwartzman.

The tangled legal history dates back to the early 1960s, when producers Albert Broccoli and Harry Saltzman first prepared the Bond series from Fleming's books. Screen rights to *Thunderball*, they found, were separately assigned to Kevin McClory, who had originated the story with Fleming and scriptwriter Jack Whittingham as a possible film subject. McClory made *Thunderball* in 1965, but the jackpot, moved to the Bahamas, and subsequently recycled the material as another potential film, called *Warhead*. In 1981 Schwartzman acquired McClory's rights in *Thunderball* and secured a new script from Lorenzo Semple Jr., a Hollywood master at tongue-in-cheek adventure, pressing the new version of *King Kong and Flash Gordon*.

Schwartzman also enticed Connery into saying "Yes". Then the lawsuits really began. Fleming's trustees insisted the new script strayed too far from *Thunderball* to constitute a legally permissible remake.



Bond is back: Sean Connery returns as 007 (left) and he's just as cool as he ever was

Schwartzman insisted otherwise. The plot certainly seems familiar: villains of Spectre, determined to hold the world to ransom, steal two cruise missiles. As in *Thunderball*, the battle for repositioning reaches its climax underwater.

The director is Irvin Kershner, aged 50, who has promised striking things since the late 1950s and occasionally delivered them (*A Fine Madness*, *Loving*). But here, as in *The Empire Strikes Back*, he was bewitched by the production

context: Connery and the lawyers held most of the reins. "But it was still a pleasure", Kershner has said: he speaks hopefully, too, of the film's political topicality.

Schwartzman himself looked forward during shooting to a film "rich, grand, even magnificent, but totally realistic". Glimmering technology, to be sure, is less in evidence, though other Bond requirements remain, from colourful villains to feminine pulchritude. The script, indeed, makes capital out

of its clichés: "Now that you're on the case", says Alec McCowen's Q, "I hope we're going to have some gratuitous sex and violence".

Never Say Never Again opens in London on Thurs at the Warner West End, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Studio Oxford Circus, Classic Haymarket, and Classic Tottenham Court Road. Sean Connery will be interviewed on stage at the National Film Theatre, London, on Tues (8.45pm).

ZEIG (PG) ABC Fulham Road (870 5530) Classic Oxford Street (336 8310) Gate Bloomsbury (837 8402) Screen on the Green (226 3520) Warner West End (438 0791) There may be Woody Allen films with a bigger pile of laughs, but none can compare with this pseudo-documentary for bizarre imagination and technical brilliance. The history of Leonard Zelig, the human chameleon, prompts good jokes about modern neuroses and the lowest common denominator in the fabrication of a bogus - and completely believable - legend from authentic visual documents. Documentary portraits will never seem the same again. With Milla Farrow.

A STAR IS BORN (U) Gate Notting Hill (221 0220/7270 5750) The reconstructed version of Judy Garland's comeback vehicle - the familiar story of one star rising while another descends, directed in 1954 by George Cukor with due devotion to his star. The extra 28 minutes give us two new songs, tart background details and a running time of almost three hours; gay persons might fidget, but Garland fanatics should be well pleased.

JACQUES TATI SEASON Barbican Cinema One (828 8795) Chief novelty of the season is Tati's last film *Pierrot* (1974; daily until Wed). The video colour resembles sickly sweets, and the editing is yawpward. But the material - Tati mine plus circus act - is droll and constantly surprising.

MONKEY GRIP (18) Ginecena Leicester Square (03 0631) Life, love and heroism in the bohemian suburbs of Melbourne during the early 1970s; a subject fraught with pitfalls, but Ken Cameron's version of the novel by Helen Garner successfully avoids many of them. Nori Haztari's natural and vibrant central performance as the divorcee struggling through emotional turmoil helps to cement the episodic material. With Colin Fries

LA TRAVIATA (U) Odeon Haymarket (830 2738) Franco Zeffirelli's exhilarating film version of the Verdi opera filmed in 1971, created cards 928 8544) Teresa Stratas, Placido Domingo and Cornel MacNeil sing; James Levine conducts.

THE LEOPARD (PG) Gate Bloomsbury (837 1177/8408) After 20 years, Luchino Visconti's beleaguered *Leopard* changes its spots and emerges uncut, with Italian dialogue and superior

colour. A magnificent distillation of Giuseppe di Lampedusa's novel about nineteenth-century Italy in transition; the screen throbs with passionate acting, opulent decor and a fine Brucknerian score by Nino Rota. With Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale, Alain Delon.

LIQUID SMILE (18) Classic Chelsea (352 5096) ICA Cinema (330 3847, closed Mon) Unique and outrageous blend of punk musical, fashion show and science-fiction parody, filmed in New York by a group of Russian emigrants clearly delighting in Western decadence. New Wave dignitary Anne Carlisle stars as the Manhattan beauty whose roof plays host to an alien visitor hooked on heroin. Directed by Salma Taskerman.

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Films on TV

It may seem surprising that the first serious attempt to film D H Lawrence was not until 1960. After all, the cinema had not been slow to exploit the screen potential of other leading novelists and the Lawrence canon did offer some promising subjects.

Part of the reason was the frankness of Lawrence's writing and particularly his treatment of sex, which could not be reflected in the cinema until censorship was relaxed. A ludicrously bowdlerized version of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* made in France in the 1950s, only underlined the point.

Towards the end of the swinging sixties taboos were lifted, and in the wake of this came such Lawrence adaptations as *The Fox* with its (for the time) explicit sex scenes and Ken Russell's *Women in Love* with its uninhibited couplings and the nude wrestling match between Alan Bates and Oliver Reed.

One Lawrence novel, however, did not have to wait for the censor. In 1960 Jack Cardiff, an occasional director but better known (and generally more distinguished) as a cameraman, made a very creditable stab at what is perhaps Lawrence's finest work, *Sons and Lovers*. It can be seen on Channel 4 on Tuesday, 9.10-10.55pm.

Sons and Lovers is the story, partly autobiographical, of a Nottinghamshire mining family and the intense relationships within it - between the drunken, hapless father, the possessive mother and the son, Lawrence himself, who seeks his escape into the world of art.

The screenplay, which stays faithful to the original if not quite capturing its profundity, was the work of two hands: Gavin Lambert, novelist and former film critic, and T. E. B. Clarke, who had thought up and written some of the most successful Ealing comedies.

Wendy Hiller and Trevor Howard play the parents with seasoned professionalism, and Howard has seldom been better. More controversial but in the event vindicated was the decision to cast as Paul the young American actor Dean Stockwell.

Peter Waymark
Also recommended: *Frä Diavolo* (1933); Laurel and Hardy as incompetent bandits in a clever parody of the 1930s comic opera by Aubrey (BBC2, today, 1.40-3.05pm).

The Ghost and Mrs Muir (1947): Romantic comedy of the supernatural with Rex Harrison, Gene Tierney and George Sanders (Channel 4, today, 9.25-10.20pm).

My Skating Partner (1944): Characteristic Betty Davis melodrama in which she marries Claude Rains for his money but comes to love him just the same (BBC2, today, 3.30-5.35pm).

An American in Paris (1951): Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron (her first film) and a Gershwin score stylishly directed by Vincente Minnelli (BBC2 Wed, 6.40, 8.30pm).

Nocturne (1979): Werner Herzog's remake of a classic horror picture, with Klaus Kinski as Dracula, Isabelle Adjani and Bruno Ganz (Channel 4, Fri, 11.15pm-1am).

*First British television showing.

Critics' choice

THE JUNGLE BOOK (U) MICKEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL (U) Odeon Leicester Square (03 6111) Coronet Notting Hill (727 6705) and Phoenix East Finchley (883 2233) from Fri

Walt Disney's glorious cartoon treatment of Rudyard Kipling, made in 1967, with excellent jokes and songs. Also, Mickey Mouse's comeback film, derived from Charles Dickens. It is a measure of the potency of the characters created at the Disney studios that they can be put into dramatic roles just like other movie stars; and as with their human counterparts, their own star personalities modify the characters they play. It is this which gives Mickey's *Christmas Carol* the charm of irreverence.

Donald plays Uncle Scrooge McDuck; Goofy is Marley's Ghost; the indubitable star.

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Dance

TWYLA THARP Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Wed Dec 22 (not Sun) at 7.30pm. Twyla Tharp's company of superb dancers (big personalities, perfect teamwork, dazzling bravura and devastatingly casual manner) go back to London with three programmes. They open on Wed with *Allegro*, a series of dances to the music of *Sue's Leg* to music by Fats Waller and a world premiere *Telemann's Concerto in E Major*.

On Thurs they perform the all-dancing virtuoso finale from the full-length *Catherine Wheel*. Talking Heads music which was seen on Channel 4 earlier this year plus *Eight Jelly Rolls*, with Tharp leading the cast, and *Bad Smells*, Baker's *Dozen*, to piano jazz music, is on Fri with a world premiere to a score commissioned from David Van Tieghem, a young composer who has worked with Laurie Anderson and David Byrne.

NOVAL BALLET Covent Garden (240 1068). Mon, Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm. The new ballets by Richard Alston and David Bintley are on Mon, together with Ravenna Tucker's first performance of the lead in MacMillan's *Faure Requiem*.

Lesley Collier and Wayne Eagling dance *Swan Lake* (Thurs). Eagling is also in *Apollo* with Bryony Birt and Raymond At III with Merle Park on Fri, when the programme includes Antonin Dvorak's *Sibelius* and Anthony Dowling in Ashton's *Vari Capricci*.

KALA KENDRA Commonwealth Institute (603 4535). Mon to Dec 17 at 7.30pm; matinee Dec 17 at 3pm. This is a dance-drama company from Delhi presenting two programmes. They open with *Ram Lila*, an ancient morality tale of gods, kings, beautiful princesses and undying love, repeated on Tues and Wed. On Thurs and Fri they perform Indian folk dances.

SADLER'S WELLS NOVAL BALLET Birmingham Hippodrome (021 622 7488). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Plymouth, Theatre Royal (0752 886255). Mon to Dec 17 at 7.30pm; matinees Tues and Sat at 2.30pm.

The company dances *Giselle* today, Fri and Dec 17; another reliable favourite, *La Fille mal gardée*, is on Mon and Tues; and a bill comprising David Bintley's exhilarating *Charles*, the brilliant showpiece *Pequillo* and the brilliant *Coucoule fantasque* on Wed and Thurs.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Tonight at 7.30pm. The season ends with Siobhan Davies's *Carnival*, Christopher Benneman's troubadour piece and Robert Cohan's *Songs*, *Lamentations and Praises*.

Concerts

CELTIC TRYPTICH Today, 7.30pm, St Paul's, Covent Garden, Bedford Street, London WC2E 8BS (1977). The Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra, conducted by both Richard Dickens and Brynlyd Clark, gives the world premiere of William Lawrance Harris's *Celtic Tryptich*.

SACRED WEBER Today, 8pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2A 3DB. The Webern centennial celebrations continue with his *Sacred Lieder* Op 15, *Two Lieder* Op 19, *Four Lieder* Op 13, *Five Canons* Op 18, *Six Lieder* Op 14, *Six Sonatas* Op 1, *Clarinete* *Pieces* Op 5, Schoenberg's *Three Satires* Op 28, *Four Choruses*, Op 27, and others. Phyllis Bryn-Jones sings, Pierre Boulez conducts the Ensemble Intercontemporain.

ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC MUSIC Tomorrow, 8pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1 (1930 3647). In the last concert of a memorable series, the Electro-Acoustic Music Association presents Wits's *Twelve* *Episodes*, Camille's *Three Episodes* and the *Ensemble* *La Cascade Enchantée* by David Keane, described on the leaflet as "this famous Canadian".

THREE TRIOS Tomorrow, 8.30pm, Conway Hall, 100 Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF. The Scarborough Piano Trio play today's Trio Hob XX/25, the one of the Gypsy Rondo, Beethoven's Op 70 No 1, known as

"The Ghost", and Mendelssohn's Trio in D Minor Op 49.

BACH VESPERS Tomorrow, 7pm, St Anne's, Gresham Street, London EC2A 3DB. J. S. Bach's *Cantata No 186 Argus* *dich, o Seele, nicht*, for the Third Sunday in Advent, and the *D major Oboe d'Amore Concerto* (reconstructed by Anthony Robson) are performed by the Lecoq Ensemble in the context of a Lutheran service, as originally intended.

NIMALS tonight, Royal Concert Hall, Birmingham; tomorrow, Edinburgh; today, 7.30pm, Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle City. City Hall, Sheffield City Hall offered with excellent new material also studied with such classics "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" and "I'm Crying" as reunion performances fully justify the hope. The Burdon piece as potent a stage piece as he possessed in 1964.

GREY/BUDDY TATE tonight and Thurs to Sat, Pizza Press, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (439 8722). *Streamline jazz* at its meatiest in two alumni of the Beebe band, assisted by the Eddie Thompson Co. Tate, one of the great Texas pianists, takes the spotlight alone in a Dean Street basement on Wed at the Pizza on the Park (11 lightsbridge, London SW1; 235 50) on Mon.

IMAGINATION tonight and tomorrow, Cumingstons Odeon, Queen

Rock & Jazz

HOT CHOCOL

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

NATIONAL CAT SHOW: The biggest one-day cat event attracts 2,000 entrants for classes ranging from best in show to the 80 or so breeds to healthiest pet and most beautiful colour. Longhaired blues, curly-coated rexes, white-footed Burmese and others compete to be champion of champions. Olympia, Kensington, London W14 (373 8141). 10.30am-5.30pm. Tickets £1.50 adults; 80p children.

INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS: Gymnasts from China, Japan, Cuba, the USSR and Britain display their Olympic routines in the Coca-Cola international competition, the first international since the world championships, won by the Chinese, Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex (802 1234). Today and tomorrow, 2pm. Tickets £3.50-£6.

FA CUP: Reaches its second round with plenty of non-league survivors eager to make further progress at the expense of third and fourth division sides. The potential giant killers include Harrow Borough at home to Newport County, Altrincham who visit Darlington, and Chelmsford City away to Gillingham. The draw for the third round can be heard live on Radio 2 at 5.30pm.

THE TWO RONNIES

Barker and Corbett are back with a new series and if the mixture of sketches, musical parodies, shaggy dog stories and Barker's marvellous verbal gymnastics is much as before, that is how the customers like it. But the serial has been revamped in favour of self-contained film stories of which the first is called "Raiders of the Lost Ark". BBC1, 8.10-9pm.

THE DAY AFTER: Jason Roberts and Joseph Williams in the film that shook America - a harrowing account of how a Kansas community is devastated by a nuclear attack. The subject is made all the more graphic and horrifying by concentrating on the lives of ordinary people: a heart surgeon, a farmer and his family preparing for a daughter's wedding and a woman awaiting the birth of her first child. All TV regions, 9.30-11.35pm.

Tomorrow

HOPKINS: Peter Galt's one-man show, assembled at the Edinburgh Festival, recounts the life of Gerald Manley Hopkins and includes his poems. St George's Theatre, 49 Tufnell Park Road, London NW7 (607 1128). 8pm. Tickets £2.50-£5.

SPORTS REVIEW OF 1983: A rapid skim through the outstanding moments of the last 12 months is the prelude to the announcement of the thirtieth BBC Sports Personality of the Year chosen, as usual, by the votes of viewers. Among the candidates are athletics gold medalists Daley Thompson and Steve Cram; world ice dance champions Torvill and Dean; and Steve Davis from snooker. The presentation is being made by Bobby Charlton. BBC 1, 8.40-10.10pm.

Monday

PENDANT ANTIQUITY: Pierced pendants and amulets made in Egypt three or four thousand years before Christ are included in a sale today and tomorrow. The pendants are being sold in pairs estimated to fetch between £300 and £800. Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1 (493 6040) at 11am and 2.30pm today; 10.30am tomorrow.

GENUINE FAKES: Tom Keating is making his name as a forger by putting the contents of his studio up for sale. There are pastiches of Constable, Degas, Titian and many more, a chamber of Tom's mother having a glass of Guinness with Rembrandt, and some pictures not imitating any of his beloved Old Masters. Christie's, South Kensington, London SW7 (581 2231) at 5pm.

THEATRE QUIZ: The National Theatre competes against the Royal Shakespeare Company in a quiz devised by Sherrin Morley. Jose Ackland joins the team representing the NT and Sheila Hancock is among those playing for the RSC. But the audience has the chance to outwit the panelists and win prizes. Cottesloe Theatre, South Bank (928 2252) at 8pm. £1.50.

OLIVER! Ron Moody recreates the role of Fagin in this major revival of Lionel Bart's musical. Peter Cox directs Meg Johnson, Geoffrey Toone, Alwyn (836 6404). Opens today at 7.30pm. Until Jan 14, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Wed and Sat at 3pm, also Dec 29, Jan 5, at 3pm.

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE: Transferring from the Shakespeare Theatre to make way for *Alec* this Ray Cooney written and



Facing issues: William Golding, one of the guests discussing current events in a Soa Bank Show special (Wednesday)

directed faros has been playing to good houses for months and the cast is now headed by James Bolam, Ian Ogilvy, Stratford Johns, Carol Hawkins, Hoyce Mills, Helen Gill, Sam Corbett and Stuart Sherwin. Criterion (830 3216). Opens today at 8pm. Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm.

Tuesday

DICKENS DRIVE: Members of the Dickens Fellowship and their associates dressed in Victorian costume drive through London in a coach, leaving Dickens House in Doughty Street, WC1 at 2pm. They go to St Paul's Cathedral, take tea at the Savoy and process through the West End to St Peter's, Eaton Square for carols, readings from *A Christmas Carol* and hot mince pies at 6.30pm.

CONSERVATION: Sir John Summerson, curator of the Soane Museum and eminent architectural historian, talks about the buildings of the 1930s. In his discussion of changing attitudes to conservation over the last half-century he asks whether the urge to preserve has gone too far. Friends House, Guston Road (opposite Euston Station), London NW1. 7pm. £3.

ROUTINE PUNCTUATED BY ORIGINS: A phrase originally coined by Aldous Huxley and taken over by Lord Rothschild to describe the work of the Central Policy Review Staff, better known as the Think Tank, was created in 1971 by Edward Heath and killed this year by Mrs Thatcher. Peter Hennessey of *The Times* traces its history. Radio 3, 7-7.45pm.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME: New comedy series about a middle-aged couple, played by William Galt and Patricia Galloway, who are looking forward to each other's undivided attention as the last of their four grown-up children prepares to leave home. But it does not work out exactly as they expect. The writer is Jon Watkins, whose previous credits include *Bless This House* and *Terry and June*. BBC1, 7.40-8.10pm.

THE AERODROME: Rex Warner's transference from the Shakespeare Theatre to make way for *Alec* this Ray Cooney written and

Wednesday

ISLAMIC BOOKBINDINGS: Titled and stamped bindings, painted lacquer covers, decorated title pages, marbled paper, calligraphy and illustrated folios are exhibited to demonstrate the way the Islamic book was constructed from its beginnings up to the twentieth century. Among the illustrations are four folios from the magnificent sixteenth-century "Houghton Shahnameh". Room 47, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (589 8371). Mon-Thurs and Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, closed Fri. Free. Ends March 4.

PHILIP GARNER: The American artist and author of *The Better Living Catalogue* and *Utopia* comes to London for three weeks to exhibit his absurd inventions, including a Cap-for-Two and a Munch-o-matic sandwich holder for the busy tylist. Mr Garner will also be presenting new products from objects found around London. The Boilerhouse Project, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (581 8273). Mon-Thurs and Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, closed Fri. Free. Ends Jan 5.

CHINESE TREASURES: Important three-day sale of Chinese art begins today. There is an extraordinary group of



Shoes for chimney dancing partners, sunglasses for the motorist who has everything: Philip Garner's inventions at the Boilerhouse

fifteenth and sixteenth-century red lacquer, some important silver, good Tang pottery, including a fine camel, and examples of the much sought after Yuan and Ming blue and white porcelain of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Christie's, King Street, Loro, SW1 (539 9060) at 11am and 2.30pm today and tomorrow, and 11am on Fri.

VICTORIAN SCULPTURE: Sculpture of every date is suddenly coming into fashion and pioneer Victorian works took off at Sotheby's major autumn sale to weeks ago. The sculpture included at the back of their less important painting sale today offers an opportunity to get in on the act. Price estimates range from £300, £4,000. Sotheby's New Bond Street, London W1 (493 6040) at 11am.

ARTS REVIEW: Melvyn Fragg and his South Bank Show team switch channels to present the first programme of its kind in which personalities from the arts come together to recall the leading events and issues of the past 12 months. The interviewees range from William Golding to Sir Richard Attenborough and Boy George to Billy Connolly. The programme has also commissioned a design from David Hockney which he will create in ink of the cameras. Channel 4, 8pm.

TH GPO STORY: A programme about letters and parcels but the GPO Film Unit and its role in the British documentary movement of the 1930s. Led by John Grier, the uncanny of the documentary, the up was the meeting ground for a remarkable collection of talent, including Norman McLaren, Harry Watt, and Humphrey Jennings. W. H. Auden and Benjamin Britten. BBC2, 8.30-10.00pm.

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: The key match tonight is Wales v Yugoslavia at Cardiff. With England's defeat and Northern Ireland already eliminated, Wales are the last chance for British representation at the finals in France next year. But they must beat Yugoslavia to make sure of qualifying. Highlights of the game are on Sportsnight, BBC1, 10-10.50pm.

Thursday

COMPUTER FAIR: The latest equipment for those with home computers is on exhibition and for sale, including software, hardware, peripherals and add-ons. Dragon Data is showing its 64 K-Byte version of the Dragon Micro and Level 9 Computing demonstrates five new puzzle adventures. Wembley Conference Centre, Wembley, Middlesex (802 1234). 10am-6pm (until 8pm on Fri). Adults £2.50, children under 16 and pensioners £1.50. Ends Dec 18.

SILENT CINEMA 1918-1926: The bill of fare for this four-day conference at the University of East Anglia includes 16 tantalizing silent films by Lubitsch, Lang, Sjöller and Victor Sjöström (director of *The Wind*). Details from Film Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ (0503 56161).

NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN: Sean Connery returns to the role of James Bond in Jack Schwartzman's film. See page 17.

SHOWJUMPING: The Olympia Championships, one of the most popular annual international horse shows, has attracted a distinguished entry including Harvey Smith, Nick Skelton, John Whitaker, Malcolm Pirah and David Broome. This evening's main event is the Norwich Union Turkey Stakes, one round and a jump-off against the clock. Olympia, Kensington, London W14 (373 8141). Today 7pm, Fri-Sun 1.30pm and 7pm. £3-£12. Television coverage on BBC1 tonight, 11.20pm-12.10am.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS: John Alderton and Jan Waters lead in a new comedy by Bernard Shaw, who also directs. Fourteen short scenes tell of 10 years in the relationship between a husband and wife who stay close even after divorce. Ambassadors (538 1171). Opens today at 8pm. Until Feb 11, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30 and 8.30pm, matinee Tues at 5pm.

A FLAME TO THE PHOENIX: Film for television written by Murray Smith and directed by William Brynne which uses the fate of a country estate in Poland on the eve of the Second World War to illuminate the tragedy of that heroic nation. The leading parts of a countess and a retired general are played by Frederick Treves and Ann Firbank. Channel 4, 9.30-11pm.

Friday

JAWS III D: Sharks slip into the Sea World holiday complex in Florida and terrify the crowds in the new movie, to be screened in 3-D in many cinemas. Joe Alves directs Dennis Quaid, Bess Armstrong, Simon MacCorkindale and Louis Gossett Jr. Carl P. Plaza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234) in 3-D. Also on general release.

NIGHTSHOOT: Singer Hazel O'Connor has written the songs and plays the lead in Bob Mason's black comedy about the Government's take-over of television after a major civil disaster. Suggested as a show for those too old for pantomime and too young to stay at home. Tricycle Theatre, 299 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 (538 9626). Opens today at 8pm. Jan 20, Mon-Sat 8pm (7pm on Dec 20), no performances Dec 24-27 or Jan 2.

Chess

Conjuring up a real sensation

The Acorn Computer World Chess Championship semi-finals are now in progress at the Great Eastern Hotel in Liverpool Street, London, are the most prestigious chess events held in this country since the International Team Tournament (later the Chess Olympiad) of 1927.

I use the word prestigious both in its modern and derivative senses, since it needed little less than a conjuring trick to have them played here after the dead-ends resulting from disagreement between the Soviet Chess Federation and the World Chess Federation President. All honour then to David Anderson, Ray Keene and Dominic Lawson, who seem to have accomplished the mighty feat of finding nearly £80,000 sponsorship from Acorn Computers, an appropriate venue and a team of organizers, all in the space of a fortnight.

It would indeed have been a disaster had the chess world been deprived of matches between such fine players as Garry Kasparov, Viktor Korchnoi, Vassily Smyslov and Zoltan Ribli, all of whom had very high Elo ratings in the last editions issued by FIDE in July 1983.

Here is how Korchnoi created a sensation by beating Kasparov in the first game on November 21.

White: G. Kasparov, Black: V. Korchnoi. Q.P. Queen's Indian Defence.

Preventing Black from playing B-N5 and so transposing to a kind of Nimzoindian Defence with strong pressure on White's K4.

Now that White has prevented him from playing B-N5 he develops this Bishop too on a long diagonal.

Curiously enough this and the following move do not turn out well for White. He would do better to play B-N5ch.

An excellent pawn sacrifice which, in view of the scattered nature of White's pawns, is purely temporary.

Probably overlooking Black's reply (Kasparov was now under acute time pressure) and thus coming down to a lost ending. He should have eliminated the powerful Knight by 24 BxN.

A fine tactical stroke which wins a pawn and in particular, a passed pawn.

The ending now is a simple win for Black.

White resigns.

Harry Golombek

CHRISTIE'S St. JAMES'S

8 King Street London SW1

Next week's sales

12th at 10.30 am and 13th at 2.30 pm

Important English and Continental Silver, Objects of Vertu and Antique Jewellery

13th at 10.30 am

Important Portrait Miniatures

13th at 10.30 am

English Drawings and Watercolours

13th at 2.30 pm and 14th at 10.30 am

Fine Antiquities

14th at 2.30 pm

Modern Sporting Guns, Vintage Firearms, Antique Arms and Armour

14th at 11.00 am and 2.30 pm, 15th at 11.00 am and 2.30 pm and 16th at 11.00 am

Important Chinese Lacquer, Ceramics and Works of Art

15th at 11.00 am and 2.30 pm

Objects of Art, Fine Continental Furniture, Tapestries, Eastern Rugs and Carpets

15th at 2.30 pm and 16th at 11.00 am

Old Master Pictures

16th at 10.30 am

Russian Works of Art, Russian and Greek Icons

Information on these sales on 01-839 9060/930 8870

SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road London SW7

12th at 10.30 am

Oriental Scrolls

12th at 2.00 pm

English, Continental and Modern British Drawings and Watercolours

12th at 5.00 pm

Paintings, Watercolours and Drawings by Tom Keating

14th at 2.00 pm

Old Master and English Pictures

15th at 10.30 am

English Ceramics

16th at 2.00 pm

Art Nouveau and Art Deco

16th at 2.00 pm

Dolls

There will also be sales of Silver, Jewellery, Carpets and Objects of Art, Furniture, Ceramics, Books, Oriental Works of Art and Ceramics, Objects of Vertu, Pictures, Watercolours, Drawings and Prints.

Information on these sales on 01-581 2231/3679

ON THE PREMISES

Tuesday, 13 December at 10.30 am and 2.00 pm

The Avenue, 40 Greenhill Gardens, Edinburgh EH10

The Property of The late Lady Carmont Sold by Order of the Executors

Catalogue £5 (£5.70 post paid)

Information on this sale on 041-332 8134

At home/Photography

Flash of inspiration

There is no better way of immortalizing a Christmas morning filled with excited children, contented grandparents and eager hands exploring presents than by photographing it - if you can get the right light.

Of course indoor pictures can be lit with the aid of a flashgun but there is still the problem of sorting out the balance of flash and camera settings, a procedure made no easier by any amount of Christmas spirit.

Now, however, the age of uncertainty has been replaced by the age of the auto flashgun. These ingenious devices have a small window or "eye" located at the front which goes by the long-winded name of a "thyristor". It is this which does the balancing act... in a flash. All the photographer has to do is select a camera aperture for a circumscribed distance.



Nevertheless a few pitfalls remain to watch out for. First, check that the shutter is at the correct synchro speed, on some cameras a 60th or 125th of a second, on others indicated by a small bolt-of-lightning symbol. Second, check that the camera and flashgun are set for the same film speed (ASA). Third, when selecting an aperture decide what is the maximum distance you need to cover. Set the flashgun for the greatest expected distance. Read off the choice of apertures available (usually three or more) and choose one to suit the depth-of-field desired.

When it comes to taking the picture, always be sure the thyristor is pointed directly at the subject. Best results are achieved with the flashgun held high to avoid red eyes in colour pictures, or by tilting the head of the flashgun upwards (if it

has this facility) in order to bounce light off the ceiling. This will give a softer effect and avoid ugly shadows behind the subject, but remember when bouncing that the distance to allow for is the total from camera to ceiling to subject.

Take care too with backlit subjects. Computerized eyes are not infallible and the thyristor may include the backlighting in its calculation, causing underexposure.

The solution to this problem is the even more clever "dedicated flash". Designed for use with specific cameras its major innovation has been the addition of "off the film" metering, whereby the microelectronics of the flashgun and camera work in conjunction to calculate exposure at the film surface, ensuring absolute accuracy in all conditions.

It follows that there are a number of points to look for when buying a flashgun:

- Is it capable of both auto and manual operation - to allow for special lighting situations?
- Can it be separated from the camera and used with a synch lead - so that it can be held high?
- Does the head tilt?
- Is it "dedicated" to your camera?

Other useful specifications to consider are size, variety of power sources (batteries, rechargeable, mains), the inclusion of a zoom head to channel or spread the light for use with a telephoto or wide-angle lens, and to instil confidence a "sufficient light" indicator which glows to show enough flash power is being used.

Surprisingly these features can be found on equipment costing less than £35 as well as on professional flashguns at more than £100. Good cheap models include the Nikon (£131), the Vivitar 2500 (£27), Haninex TZ1-34 (£30), Adequate for most tasks are the Sunpak 30DX (£45), the versatile Vivitar 4600 (£65), National PE 3675 (£68) and Braun 340 SCA (£68). To meet any situation the Metz 45 CT5 (£135), or National PE 480SG (£125) are firm professional favourites. These flashguns are compatible with most cameras.

Roy Cuckow

Bridge

Times when you can count on success

Counting the unseen hands is as indispensable in defence as in dummy play. Rubber Bridge. Game all. Dealer South.

W N E S
14 40 20 37
40 50 20 37
Double No No No No

Opening lead ♠A
Few British experts would pass the South hand originally, which makes North's support at the five level surprisingly trusting.

In response to East's ♠Q, West continued with the ♠2. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠A and ruffed a spade, returned to his hand with a club ruff and ruffed the remaining spade in dummy. When declarer played a trump, West found himself on lead in this card ending.

W N E S
14 40 20 37
40 50 20 37
Double No No No No

Opening lead ♠A
With the superficial notion of shortening declarer's trump, he continued with the ♠Q. But declarer ruffed, drew the outstanding trump, and with the help of the benign 2-2 diamond break made the remaining tricks.

Seeing all four hands, it is easy to see that South had no more black cards. His original distribution could only have been five hearts and four diamonds or six hearts and three diamonds. The latter is infinitely more probable because only the wild man of Bornoe enters the bidding at the three level on a five card suit. Surely the

suggested defence relies on East tricks. As he, he led the ♠2 and the onus lay on East to find the correct continuation. When he returned the ♠4 the defence was lost.

West foresaw that if they failed to cash the ♠A at once, declarer would dispose of his losing heart on the established queen of clubs. Much as he wished to play a spade, he had to play a heart and hope that East had the ♠KQ as well as the ♠A. As it went, declarer was able to establish dummy's long heart, which together with the ♠Q and the ♠Q offered a parking place for his three losing spades.

Notice the difference if East cashes the ♠A before turning a club. West switches to a spade, and the ace of diamonds is an insuperable obstacle to declarer's attempts to establish the hearts before the defence can take their fifth trick.

How could East tell? By careful counting. Declarer must have six diamonds to justify rebidding an unsupported broken suit. From West's lead of the ♠2, declarer is known to have at least two clubs. As West elected to support clubs rather than spades, he can have at

most three spades, leaving declarer with four. Six diamonds, two clubs, four spades, and therefore one heart.

Having successfully completed the deduction, the mechanics would have been less demanding.

White resigns.

Jeremy Flint

most three spades, leaving declarer with four. Six diamonds, two clubs, four spades, and therefore one heart.

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White resigns.

White resigns.

White resigns.

White resigns.

White resigns.

White resigns.

best chess-playing machine I have as yet encountered and is the only one that has succeeded in taking games off me." - Harry Golombek, O.B.E., International Master, Oct. 1983.

Easy to play, hard to beat, impossible to equal

The Sensory Chess Challenger 9 won top prize in the 1983 Microcomputer Chess Championship commercial section: confirming its status as 'best buy' in numerous magazine surveys; justifying its official U.S. Chess Federation rating at 1771 points.

Sensory 9 measures 12" by 11", plays at 9 skill levels and costs only £169.95 (r.p.p.) complete. For full specification of playing features and dealer list, contact Sue Hampshire at: CGL, CGL HOUSE, GOLDINGS HILL, LOUGHBON, ESSEX IG10 2RR. TEL: 01-508 5600.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Japanese faith fans Australian dollar

The Australian Government has bowed to the inevitable and floated the Australian dollar in the foreign exchange market. This week alone £1 billion worth of currency flowed in adding to the £3.75 billion of speculative funds that had taken the exchange rate to a dangerously high level. That may seem small by London standards but in Australia only six banks are licensed to trade in foreign exchange and of those, four really matter.

Some merchant banks had established a "hedge" market in Australian dollars and were circumventing Canberra's strict foreign exchange dealing rules by trading forward, particularly in the small but significant offshore, or Euro-Australian dollar market.

The strength of the Australian dollar owes almost everything to the faith the Japanese have in Australia and its economy. Prior to the 10 per cent devaluation of the dollar in March the Japanese had been big buyers and they have sustained their demand since.

Australia's huge capital needs and the high level of Government borrowing have kept long-term interest rates a couple of points above New York rates. At the same time the Australian Government has tried to deter speculation by keeping short-term rates unrealistically low. On Thursday Australian banks were quoting negative rates. Yesterday, only 1/2 per cent was offered for seven-day money. Australia's stability and its future potential are prompting the thought that the country ought to have a major capital market of its own. Mr Paul Keating, Australia's Federal Treasurer, said he was attracted to the idea but had yet to make a decision.

The degree to which the Japanese role has influenced events can be gauged from the movement of the Australian dollar against the US dollar. At the time of the March devaluation the rate was 80 US cents to one Australian dollar. Immediately after yesterday's decision to float, the rate was at 91 cents and still rising.

The weakness of the pound against the US dollar caused a disproportionate move in the sterling-BA rate, the pound dropping three cents to \$A1.57.

On the stock markets in London and Sydney mining and agricultural shares fell by up to 15p each, reflecting the view that revaluation is a threat to their export earnings. Mr Michael Tong, senior manager at the Australia and New Zealand Banking Corp. in London one of the big four foreign exchange dealers, thought that current exchange rates were reasonable but were unlikely to remain stable. He thought that Australia's Labour Government would endeavour to bring rates back down. "Too much depends on it," he said. Mr Tong agreed that the pressure on the Australian Government to establish a more widely based capital market would grow.

BA take-off delayed

After several weeks of furious speculation, the Government is finally about to give us the first concrete details of its plans for the privatisation of British Airways. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, is expected to make an announcement in the House of Commons early next week, confirming that the flotation on the stock market is still on, but that it is unlikely to happen until the mammoth British Telecom sale next autumn is out of the way.

Several parts of the jigsaw are now in place. Mr Ridley will be offering 100 per cent of the company, rather than the 51

per cent envisaged when the Government, first produced its privatisation legislation that was in the balmy days three years ago before the airline industry went into its traumatic and for some airlines terminal nosedive.

The Government is not quarrelling with estimates that the sale could be worth £900m. As for timing, the plan is to transform BA from its present status as a public corporation to that of a public limited company next April.

It has been clear for some time that the campaign by Lord King, chairman of British Airways, to dislodge British Telecom from the top billing in the 1984 privatisation show had failed.

The likely date for floating BA - at the end of next year - could easily well slip back towards the middle of 1985. Timing must be left flexible, even if in practice the actual number of possible "slots" for issue of BA's size is limited.

The Government would like to get BA off its hands as soon as it can, but it cannot predict the outcome of the Telecom issue and any after-effects. Nor can it be certain that, despite Lord King's success in restoring BA to a position of apparent profit, there will not be a sudden relapse in the still precarious condition of the world airline industry.

As for the City, it will be watching most closely for news of what the Government proposes to do with BA's debt. The intention appears to be to pay off some of the £1,000m mountain of outstanding loans from proceeds of the sale, but final details of the capital reconstruction have yet to be worked out.

More time to ponder

The 79,000 shareholders of Trafalgar House and Peninsular and Orient Steam Navigation are going to have to wait until February to find out whether the unwelcome bid by Trafalgar for P&O has been cleared by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has agreed that the reporting period for the reference should be extended from December 20 to February 20, 1984.

Both sides were convinced that the commission could and would have reached its conclusions and written its report by the earlier date. Mr Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P&O, expressed his disappointment at the delay which he sees as "a distraction to management". He said: "I had hoped this would be dealt with rapidly and enable us to continue running the business".

Though the stock market believes that the delay will give extra time for P&O to shore up its defences, Mr Sterling claimed: "We are perfectly prepared to face any onslaught now".

At Trafalgar House, a spokesman said: "We do think this will be very frustrating for P&O shareholders, as they would want to see the matter resolved as soon as possible. We are still awaiting the outcome with interest. We have been very busy and have cooperated with the Monopolies Commission fully".

The two companies have spent some £2m in their presentations to the Commission and both have been jockeying for position in expectation of a clearance, reckoned by Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman at Trafalgar, to be a 75 per cent chance.

Trafalgar's original all share (five for four) offer, if revived and successful, would leave P&O's 47,000 shareholders with 46 per cent of the combined group.

Building societies to set up Isle of Man offshoots

By Lorna Bourke

Halifax and Fife building societies are taking the revolutionary step of setting up Isle of Man societies which will be free to pay interest to investors without deduction of tax.

Halifax's Isle of Man society, the Isle of Man "spurred" societies, expect to open their doors for business early next year. Investment will be open to everyone whether resident on the mainland or elsewhere and the societies will be obliged to deduct tax at source before paying interest. Expatriates are expected to be a big market.

Mr Richard Lacy of the Fife society said: "There will be nothing preventing a mainland resident, regardless of his tax position, from investing in the Isle of Man Society. We will be able to pay interest gross and

there is nothing to stop anyone from Reykjavik to Harrow from investing.

Both Halifax and Leicester are playing down the advantages to British investors of receiving interest gross.

"We have to demonstrate to the Inland Revenue that this is not merely a tax avoidance scheme," Mr Lacy said.

Halifax confirms that its new Isle of Man society will also be paying interest without deduction of tax and that the rate is likely to be the equivalent of the grossed up mainland rate. This would work out at more than 10 per cent, and compares favourably with the home-based money funds, which offer less than 9 per cent.

Nationwide Building Society will also be setting up agency arrangements to service local

residents, but will not be opening a full blown Manx society, and it will not be paying interest gross.

At present there are no local societies operating on the island and the establishment of sponsored societies by Halifax and Leicester is dependent on new legislation which is expected to be passed by the Isle of Man parliament, the Tynwald, in the New Year.

The sole existing society has been inactive for some years and is being wound up. Mr Chris Jowett of the Halifax said: "We haven't finalized details but we expect to be open for business in the spring".

If the society is a success and takes in large sums of money, it will deposit any surplus not needed for lending to Isle of Man residents, as time deposits

with its "sponsoring" parent on the mainland.

The danger is that tax evaders will use the Manx societies to obtain a higher return and fail to declare the interest to the Inland Revenue. If this were to happen to any great extent, it could also mean that mainland based branches would lose deposits which would be channelled into Isle of Man societies, only to be redeposited with the sponsoring parent society on the mainland.

The success of the offshore roll-up funds has shown that investors are prepared to use tax havens extensively.

There is no requirement for Manx institutions to disclose to the British tax authorities, interest paid gross to British residents.

Opec pact fails to allay fears

from David Young

Geneva

Oil companies are expected to decide next week whether to press ahead with demands for a further cut in the North Sea oil output after the decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to retain its price and production agreement for another year.

The continued weakness of oil demand and the apparent precariousness of the Opec deal in Geneva have raised fears that the pact could be forced lower in the new year.

In Geneva yesterday Opec, which will next meet at a full ministerial session on July 10, gave Mr Kamal Hassan Maghaur, its new president, authority to call another meeting if he agreed reached in Geneva turns out to be as fragile as some observers suggest.

The main threat to the agreement is the volatile situation in Iran. Although the Iranian delegation signed yesterday's agreement after telephone consultation with Tehran, it is aware that the position could change.

Iran still feels that it should have been allowed to increase its production quota of 2.4 million barrels a day within the overall Opec quota of 17.5 million barrels a day.

In addition, international oil traders at the Geneva meeting as observers are planning to visit Tehran in the next few weeks to discuss new long-term contracts.

Opec, however, feels that Mr Maghaur, the Libyan Oil Minister, will be more likely to call a meeting of world demand increases in the spring to a level requiring the quotas to be renegotiated upward.

Reaction to the end of the Opec meeting was muted.

US airline staff agree to wage cut

New York (NYT) - Eastern Airlines and three of its unions have reached an agreement that is expected to save the airline \$330m (\$230m) in wages next year and bring it \$37m in productivity gains.

In exchange, the unions will have a considerable say in future management decisions, with two extra union representatives on the board and workers will eventually own about a quarter of the airline's common stock.

Under the agreement, Eastern's non-union employees and members of two unions will give up 18 per cent of their pay next year. The 3,900 members of the Air Line Pilots Association will give up 22 per cent.

Several Wall Street analysts said savings from the wage reductions would help to offset Eastern's losses, which totalled \$128.9m in the first nine months of this year.

Eastern, which is the fourth largest US airline, appealed in September to its 37,500 employees to make further concessions if it was to avoid filing for federal bankruptcy protection as Continental Air Lines had.

In return for the wage savings, Eastern will set up a wage investment programme

Abbey fails to win mortgage rate cut

By Vivien Goldsmith

Abbey National yesterday failed to persuade fellow members of the Building Societies Association to lower the mortgage rate from the present 11.25 per cent.

Although the Abbey National has formally left the rate-fixing cartel it has decided to "go with the tide" for the time being on the mortgage rate.

But it will be stepping up its mortgage lending by about 10 per cent next year, injecting several hundred million pounds into the housing market.

The consensus among building societies is that they cannot cut the mortgage interest rate while there are still mortgage queues, in spite of the boom in receipts.

In October the building societies took in a record £987m. Next week the November figures will be announced and are expected to be about £900m. There is usually a much larger drop in

receipts as savers withdraw money for Christmas shopping. Last year the fall was from £905m in October to £777m in November.

Mr John Ellis, secretary of the Abbey National, said: "We are testing the mortgage market to see what happens. We don't think that the mortgage demand will continue to be as strong as some of our colleagues do."

The Building Societies Association said that when mortgage queues were seen to be shortening in September, it was hoped that they would be cleared by the end of the year. But when it was announced that the queues were shorter more people came to the building societies looking for mortgages.

There was such a clear majority in favour of keeping the present mortgage rate, which has been running since July, that no vote was taken at yesterday's council meeting of the BSA.

Hearne takes oil job

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Government confirmed yesterday that Mr Graham Hearne has been appointed chief executive of Enterprise Oil, the newly created state oil company whose stock market flotation is scheduled for next summer.

Mr Hearne will take up his

new job on March 1. Announcing the appointment yesterday Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said he wanted to express the Government's appreciation to Carless Capel Leonard Mr Hearne's present company, for its cooperation.

Panel urges Allianz to name price

By Our Financial Staff

The City Takeover Panel has asked Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, to name by next Friday the price it intends to bid for Eagle Star.

Allianz has already said it will top the £914m offer from BAT Industries - which is already on the table - but has not yet said by how much.

The panel is said to be increasingly uncomfortable about this and urged Allianz at a meeting last night to make a definite bid early next week.

The price of Eagle Star shares on the stock market yesterday fluctuated wildly.

At one stage the shares fell to 64p on fears that Eagle's continuing hostility to Allianz might persuade the Germans to bow out of the battle. But the shares recovered to close 3p up on the day at 71 1/2p - a new high.

The merchant bank financial adviser to BAT Industries, Lazard Freres, is pressing the takeover panel to the Allianz to a firm date early next week on the grounds that the current situation is creating a false market in Eagle Star shares.

A £5m offer for sale by tender of shares in Eagle Star's high-tech offshoot, VG Instruments, has been a flop. Only half of the 12.5 million shares on offer were applied for at the minimum tender price of 130p. It is the third tender offer to flop within two weeks.

Dollar at new peak

The dollar hit fresh peaks on world currency markets yesterday, spurred by higher interest rates and reports that Mr Donald Reagan, the US Treasury Secretary, saw little scope for US rates to fall before next spring.

It reached a 10-year "high" against the Deutschmark at DM 2.7487, a record against the French Franc, at FF 8.325, while its trade-weighted index breached 130 for the first time since August.

The pound sank to \$1.4035 before closing at a lowest-ever \$1.4355 - 60 points down on the day and a loss of more than two cents on the week. Its trade-weighted index gained 0.1 to \$2.6, reflecting a steady performance against European currencies.

Gold shed more than \$13 an ounce to \$388.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 757.1 down 3.1
FT 100s 82.77 down 0.52
FT All Shares 465.33 down 2.70
Birmingham 22.620
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 95.16 down 0.76
New York Dow Jones
Industrial Average
(latest) 1258.73 down 3.76
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,448.90 down 12.13
Hongkong Hang Seng
Index 858.39 down 15.47
Amsterdam 158.1 down 0.3
Sydney AO Index 735.8
down 1.2
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 1014.3 down 9.2
Brussels General Index
130.49 unchanged

CURRENCIES

STERLING
\$1.4355 down 50pts
Index 82.6 up 0.1
DM 3.9475 up 0.0025
FF 11.9925 up 0.02
Yen 339.50 down 1.75
DOLLAR
Index 130.2 up 0.5
DM 2.7487 up 0.0162

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4355
Dollar DM 2.7500

INTERNATIONAL

ECU 0.573274
SFR 20.722413

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$388.50 pm \$388.75
close \$388.50-\$389.25 (\$270.50-271)

New York latest: \$388
Kruggerand (per ounce):
\$400.50-\$402 (\$279-280)
Sovereigns (new):
\$31.25-\$32.25 (\$53.50-54.25)
Excludes VAT

WALL STREET

Lower trend continues

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street stock prices were lower in active trading as the market continued a selloff of recent days.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which dropped nearly 12 points on Thursday, was off about one point to 1261 in early trading yesterday.

Mattel fell 1/8 to 5-3/8 after reporting a large third-quarter loss and saying it expected a deficit in the next quarter.

Blue chip stocks were aided by the strong performance of IBM shares.

IBM, which on Thursday predicted a 14 per cent rise in 1984 sales, was up 2-1/4 to 121.

The company also said it would repurchase some stock.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month interbank 9 1/2-9 3/8
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/16-10 1/16
3 month DM 6 1/16-6 1/16
3 month Fr 12 1/2-12 1/2

US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/8
Treasury long bond 100/332-100/332
100/332

ECB Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period November 2 to
December 6, 1983 inclusive:
9.350 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Broker may widen field

W. Greenwell, one of Britain's top 10 stockbroking firms yesterday confirmed the report in The Times that it was in talks which may lead to non-Stock Exchange members taking a significant stake.

Greenwell have set up a special executive committee to review its future strategy against the proposed changes in Stock Exchange rules which are designed to open the market to wider participation. It promises to no immediate announcement what it sees as desirable and what is practical.

● The directors of Stone-

Employees buy back company for £5m

By Jeremy Warner

Amari plans return to SE

The Amari Group, an aluminium extrusion and distribution company, is planning to return to the stock market for a share quote after an absence more than 10 years.

In 1972 Amari was swallowed by the big mining exploration group Selection Trust after a £3.3m bid. This in turn was acquired by British Petroleum for more than £420m in 1980.

Now, after a year of complex negotiations, staff and management have succeeded - with the backing of four City institutions - in buying the company back for £5m.

Over 260 of the group's 1,400 employees put up a minimum of £1,000 each for a combined stake of 52 per cent. Four

institutions, County Bank, ICF, Moracrest and West Midlands County Council pension fund, have put up £4m of the purchase price for 48 per cent of the ordinary shares and a block of preference capital.

The company is planning to float on the Stock Exchange next year. Stockbroker Kitcat & Aitken, which has been advising the directors and employees throughout the negotiations, has set up a share trust which will provide a limited market in the shares for employees.

This is similar to the share dealing facility which was made available to employees in the National Freight Corporation bought from the Government by its staff for £53m in 1981.

The majority of Amari's business is in Britain but the group also has small subsidiaries in Canada, Germany and the Netherlands. Pretax profits this year are estimated at £2m against little more than breakeven in 1982 while sales will top £140m.

Amari has 22 stockholdings outlets throughout the country, a big manufacturing facility at Sanderfoot in Dumfriesshire and smaller ones near Newcastle and in Staffordshire.

Mrs Brenda Langley, the group's finance director, said yesterday prospects for 1984 are "excellent". Gross assets at the end of 1983 are expected to total £57m.



A word to those thinking of investing in Japan

The Japanese word illustrated here is the name on the front door of our office in Tokyo - Fidelity. This is important for our investors. We have had an investment office in Japan since 1969 and our unique team there numbers 25 people, all Japanese nationals.

The investment performance results of this team in Tokyo have been outstanding for our 'offshore' and pension fund investors. And since October 1981 unit trust investors in the UK have been able to benefit through Fidelity Japan Trust.

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Over the 12 months to 1st December 1983 Fidelity Japan Trust has been one of the top performing of all unit trusts, with the offer price rising 84% (source: 'Planned Savings' and 'Money Management' December). This demonstrates our ability to pick stocks in Japan and to use our flexibility to switch between large and small companies.

Confident outlook

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stock market. We also expect the Yen to strengthen giving an additional bonus to investors.

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Fidelity is one of the largest independent investment management groups in the world, with a research team of 100 top professionals worldwide, and offices in Boston, Hong Kong, London, New York and Tokyo. Fidelity has the strength in depth needed to capitalise on investment opportunities wherever they occur - including, obviously, Japan.

Fidelity Japan Trust

This trust aims to produce maximum capital growth from a portfolio chosen from the total range of investments available in Japan. Since launch in October 1981 to 8th December 1983 the unit offer price has risen 120% compared with a rise of 57% in the Tokyo New Index (currency adjusted).

How to invest

Simply complete the coupon below and post it to us with your cheque. Fidelity Investor Services welcomes your telephone enquiries for advice and further information on Fidelity (0732) 361111 or Freephone Fidelity. Remember the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

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Surname MR/MRS/MISS (Block letters please)
First names
Address
Post Code



Fidelity INTERNATIONAL

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Shares deal

Harrow Building Society is offering 8.75 per cent net of basic rate tax on "Additional Interest Shares" or 8.5 per cent on Monthly Income Investments. Further details from Harrow Building Society.

Millionaires' card

American Express Bank is introducing a luxury travel service aimed at ultra-rich businessmen holding one of the bank's gold cards. Called Premier Services, it includes 24-hour emergency travel arrangements, chauffeured limousines, medical assistance and a number of other facilities for the businessman abroad. The service is not available to holders of gold cards issued by other banks and is aimed at customers in the dollar-millionaire bracket. They are given the telephone number of a multilingual representative of the bank in Paris, New York, Miami and London who makes the required arrangements.

Although most of the gold cards issued by American Express Bank are dollar cards, it will also issue sterling cards. There is no need for customers to

apply for the service. They will be told if they are eligible.

Late arrival

An offshore managed currency fund from the European Banking Company seems to have missed the boat. It was launched this week - three weeks after the Chancellor announced a clampdown on offshore currency funds.

"The directors of the fund believe that the fund should offer an attractive investment opportunity, even though it is proposed that with effect from January 1, 1984, gains accruing to investors liable to UK taxation on disposals of shares, will be charged as income," says the publicity blurb.

EBC correctly points out that the liability to income tax will be on dividends only until an investment in the fund is realised. Meanwhile, profits in the fund will roll-up tax free.

At least 75 per cent of the fund will be held in currencies and monetary instruments - bank CDs and the like - but the rest will be actively traded with every opportunity for short-term currency gains being taken. Minimum investment is £1,000.

Trusting in plastic

Plastic money is catching on fast - it is not as fast as the banks would like. Figures published this week by Trustcard, Trustee Savings Bank's Visa card, show that there are now 21.6 million credit cards of various types in use in Britain - a rise of 50 per cent over the last five years - and one in three adults is now using them.

Trustcard says that during 1983 credit cards will have accounted for more than 250 million transactions with an estimated value of around £9 billion. Trustcard, the newest of the major cards, was launched five years ago and now has 2 million holders, accounting for 13 per cent of all bank-issued credit cards.

The increase in ownership of plastic contrasts with the traditional British conservatism about payment methods reflected in the fact that about 40 per cent of working people are still paid weekly in cash. But Trustcard, which prides itself on the wide appeal of its card, points out that the average income of its holders is only £28,344 against £10,565 for Barclaycard.



Fighting crime

To help combat car crime, Royal Insurance has arranged for holders of its CarShield 30 and CarShield 50 policies to have their vehicle registration number etched into all car windows - free.

policyholder's current certificate of insurance, have their windows engraved. Mr John Simpson, of Royal Insurance, commented: "Last year over 300,000 vehicles were stolen in the UK. Many were never recovered. We hope this service will help prevent some of these thefts, in addition to helping with the identification and recovery of stolen vehicles."

New gilts fund

Yet another gilts growth fund is being launched - this time by County Bank - aimed at the maximization of capital growth by prudently mixing between conventional and index-linked gilts, says the publicity material.

Whittingdale Gilt Growth, but not so peral as some. If you invest over £5,000, the charge drops to only 2 per cent. There is also an annual management charge of a modest 1 per cent. The minimum investment is £200.

Peterborough plan

Investors in the small Peterborough Building Society are to be offered facilities rivaling those already provided by the larger ones of the marketplace, like the Halifax.

Peterborough's Cash Counter Account offers up to 10 standing order payments a month free of charge - and one can run it like a budget account to pay the household bills. There are deposit, withdrawal and balance enquiry facilities at two of Peterborough's city-centre, cash-dispenser machines.

A monthly statement showing all transactions and arrangements for having your monthly salary paid directly into your account with withdrawals immediately available are also provided. The cost of this service is that money invested earns only 6 per cent interest instead of the usual 7.25.

Signal Life
A question of whom investors can sue

Negotiations between insurance brokers who sold bonds for Signal Life, the failed insurer and its professional indemnity insurers will almost certainly come to nothing.

Brokers have been asking client investors who lost money in the collapse of Signal Life to postpone any court action against them for negligence until it has been established whether professional indemnity policies will cover the brokers' liability.

Insurance analysts believe that the professional indemnity insurers will not pay out if the brokers are found to be negligent, because almost all their policies exclude cases where a company has failed. Signal Life collapsed in August last year owing investors more than £6m. About £4.5m was paid promptly by Hongkong Shanghai Bank, which acted as trustee to the gold bond fund.

But the gilt bond fund had no trustee and the only course of action open to these investors is to bring an action for negligence against the brokers who sold them.

The brokers have been asking for time to make arrangements with their professional indemnity insurers, though several have admitted liability and paid clients in full.

One analyst said: "These people have little to gain by waiting. If they are successful against their professional adviser and he is unable to pay, they can then make a claim against the Insurance Brokers Registration Council's Grants Scheme."

Payments under the scheme are discretionary. Mr John Fryer, secretary of the IBRC, said: "There is sufficient in the compensation fund to cover Signal Life claims, but I think preference must be given to those people who have used an authorized UK insurance company." Mr Fryer said: "I would doubt whether professional indemnity insurers regard themselves as being liable in the case of Signal."

Correction
Our apologies to the Vicar of Enfield, the Reverend Peter Morgan, and to the Reverend William Bowder, the curate of Enfield, whom we wrongly described last Saturday as the vicar.

Junior accounts

Woody Westminster a poor deal for lollipop savers

Woody Westminster, Annebel, Maxwell, Lady Hilary and Sir Nathaniel Westminster are a family of piggy money boxes. NatWest Bank's latest weapon in the battle to attract junior savers.

NatWest is the last of the high street banks to recognize the potential market among the lollipop investors and it has now launched its package of goodies aimed at persuading children from five to 15 that NatWest is the place to save.

But is a NatWest account good value for money for a child? Looking at these junior bank accounts from a purely investment angle, the answer must be an unequivocal no.

Interest at a miserable 3.5 per cent does not begin to compare with the 11 per cent available from the National Savings Bank investment account or the 7.25 to 8.25 per cent from building societies.

It is not even a good as the 7.5 per cent (plus a free money-sorting money box) that Lloyds Bank is offering junior savers. However, it does have the merit, as do the other schemes, of getting children used to saving and handling their own money, though whether the NatWest incentives will attract new business is difficult to judge.

Children going to NatWest branches with the £3 necessary to open an account will probably be disappointed to discover that they have to fork out £1 straight away to get Woody Westminster the first of the piggy banks.

If £25 is saved within six months of opening the account the child receives the Annebel money box as a reward. Maxwell, Lady Hilary and Sir Nathaniel Westminster are handed over at the £50, £75 and £100 targets respectively.

There is a regular newsletter and a starter pack containing a money-tree wall chart, account record book and membership card.

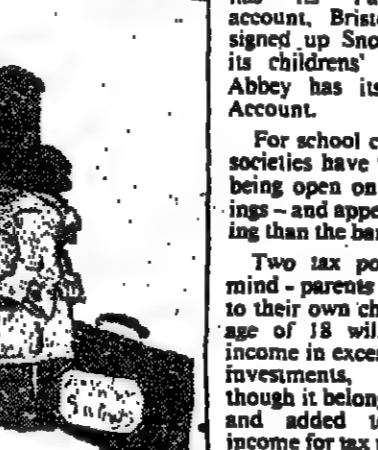
Older children can join NatWest's "On Line" account scheme, which encourages them to save for high technology and sports goods available from a mail order handbook.

THE NATWEST PIGGY BANK

A NEW SAVINGS SCHEME FOR CHILDREN



C&G Junior Account



reasonable return, you cannot beat a building society account at the moment. Ordinary share accounts with instant withdrawal facilities pay 7.25 per cent and there are many schemes for children on offer. In the past a building society was not the most sensible home for children's savings as tax is deducted at source and is not reclaimable by a non-taxpaying child. But at the moment the after-tax return is considerably higher than the rate offered by the high street banks which pay interest without deduction of tax.

Bradford and Bingley's Acorn Account features a "money sorting moneybox" similar to the one Lloyds Bank offers junior savers.

Cheltenham & Gloucester has its Paddington Bear account. Bristol & West has signed up Snoopy to promote its children's accounts, while Abbey has its Junior Savers Account.

For school children, building societies have the advantage of being open on Saturday mornings - and appear less intimidating than the banks.

Two tax points to bear in mind - parents who give money to their own children under the age of 18 will find that any income in excess of £5 from the investments is treated as though it belonged to the parent and added to the parent's income for tax purposes. Grandparents, godparents or donors other than the child's parent, who regularly give money to a child at Christmas and birthdays, should consider doing this under a deed of covenant.

Every £10 given in this way costs the donor only £7, but is worth £10 to the child. The only requirement is that the donor is not the child's parent, and that the giver is a taxpayer, while the recipient (the child) is not a taxpayer.

Do-it-yourself covenant kits are available.

Lorna Bourke

SAYE
Building societies fall behind

How does a building society-linked Save As You Earn contract compare with an index-linked SAYE scheme from the National Savings?

Mr Graham Rumsey of Hendon has just cashed in two such plans taken out in November 1978 and has been doing some calculations.

"I took out two SAYE contracts at £20 a month each. For the first I put £1,180 in a share account with the Yorkshire Building Society with a standing order for direct monthly payments into the SAYE account so that the interest accrued on the reducing sum."

"For the second I took out a National Savings index-linked SAYE account with a standing order for monthly payments out of my bank current account," said Mr Rumsey.

The amount paid into both SAYE contracts was £1,200. The building society linked scheme produced £1,480 after five years whereas the index-linked version of SAYE produced £1,526.

He also noticed up £264.74 in interest on the building society scheme as he deposited a lump sum.

But had he done the same with the index-linked SAYE contract, rather than fund it out of his current account, the result would have been £1,744.74 on the building society scheme, compared with £1,719.50 on the index-linked plan.

Pension plans
Early leavers find a champion

Most people's pensions are tied up with their jobs - and that is the problem now under review by the Government.

When people change jobs they leave behind a trail of frozen pensions. The ideal promised by most pension schemes is a pension of two-thirds of final salary - but for most that is a false promise unless they stay in one job all their working life.

An inquiry set up by Mr Norman Fowler, the Services Secretary, is receiving representations and one scheme put forward switches the emphasis so that individuals have the option of a personal pension plan - like the self-employed.

As well as making the scheme infinitely portable - from job to job and from employed to self-employed status - and wiping out the problem of the "early leaver", as the pensions industry calls anyone who ever changes his job, it has an impeccable Thatcherite philosophy.

For the plan being put forward by the Save and Prosper Group gives the individual a high degree of choice. He can choose not only how much to invest beyond the suggested minimum of 12 per cent of earnings (including 6 per cent from an employer in the case of employees).

He can also choose where to invest the money. Save and Prosper in its Blueprint for the

Future suggests there should be a list of approved institutions - building societies, banks, life insurance companies, or approved pensioner trustees.

As well as these indirect investments, personal retirement accounts could also be invested directly in shares, Government securities, deposits, unit trusts, or, with professional advice, into land, commodities and traded options.

A self-managed portfolio would have to be kept under the eye of trustees who would be able to veto mad speculation or a leakage of funds.

No more than 20 per cent of earnings would be tax deductible but there would be no limit to contributions. Up to 5 per cent of earnings could be earmarked for a lump sum benefit on retirement, and meanwhile this could be used as security for house purchase or investment in a business.

Save and Prosper acknowledges the help and advice it has had from the Adam Smith Institute and Centre for Policy Studies. It has put the personal retirement account into practice as far as present legislation allows. Save and Prosper's plan has been an instant success with £230,000 in annual premiums coming in during the two months since its launch.

Vivien Goldsmith

What's the next best thing to a roll-up fund?

The Henderson Alternative

Soon UK investors will no longer be able to use currency roll-up funds to turn highly-taxed income into less heavily taxed capital gains. If you're a 'roll-up' investor you're probably already investigating alternative homes for your money. And one alternative which deserves serious consideration is the Henderson Preference and Gilt Trust.

This is an authorised unit trust, managed by the £1.4 billion Henderson Group, and aiming to provide a very high yield from investments in preference shares and British Government Securities. Roll-up investors will find it of special interest because:

Excellent for a Private Investor

Currency roll-up funds have provided good security and have converted modest yields into more attractive gains. The yield on Henderson's Preference and Gilt Trust cannot be converted into a capital gain - but on the other hand it is far from modest. Indeed, at 11.5% gross, it is well above that available on most roll-up funds (and alternative investments) and this difference will help to compensate for the extra tax liability involved.

Unlike roll-up funds it also offers the possibility of some capital appreciation.

And so far as security is concerned, since the fund is invested exclusively in preference shares and gilts it is likely to prove a relatively stable investment.

You should note however that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Even better for a Company

As a home for corporate funds, Henderson Preference and Gilt Trust offers an additional major advantage. Income received by the Trust from preference shares is not liable to Corporation Tax. Income is paid to unit holders net with a 30% tax credit. An investment taxable at 52% would therefore need to yield 16.7% gross to achieve the same return.

Invest on favourable terms

Until 30th December 1983, units in the Henderson Preference and Gilt Trust are available at a discount of 1% on the price prevailing on receipt of your application. To invest simply return the application form below together with your remittance - either direct or through your professional advisor.

Henderson Preference & Gilt Trust

11.5% P.A.

Gross estimated yield. Payable quarterly.

Additional Information
An initial charge of 1% is levied on the first payment made by the Manager, when units are issued. The Manager's pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries, rates are available on request.
The Trust's net income after all annual charges of 2.5% (plus VAT) on the value of the Trust is to be distributed to the unit holders in four equal instalments. Distributions of income will be paid on 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November net of basic rate tax. The next distribution will be paid on 1 February 1984.
Units are not subject to capital gains tax. However, a unit holder will not pay tax on a disposal of units unless the total realised gains from all sources, within any tax year amount to more than £2,300. Prices and yield can be found daily in the Financial Times.
Trustee: Williams & Glyn's Bank plc
Manager: Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited, 25 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 4DA (R-registered Office Reg No. 58262). A Member of the Unit Trust Association.
The Henderson Group also manages: Pension Funds, Investment Trusts, Investment Bonds, Off-Shore Funds, Exempt Trusts, and Private Client Portfolios.

To: Premier Unit Trust Administration Limited, Dealing Department, 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1AA.
Units will be issued to investors in Henderson Preference and Gilt Trust at the official offer price on the date this application is received by the Managers (minimum initial investment £500).
We enclose remittance payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited.
SHARE EXCHANGE SCHEME - Our Share Exchange Scheme provides a favourable way to switch into this Unit Trust. For details please tick box or call Peter Frost on 01-638 6767.
This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____
Forename(s) _____
Address _____
Signature(s) _____ Date _____
(If there are joint applicants, all must sign and attach their name and address)

Henderson.
The Investment Managers.

A Roll-Up Alternative

Barlow Clowes have introduced PORTFOLIO 78 as a realistic alternative for roll-up fund investors. This is what PORTFOLIO 78 offers:

- * An excellent investment service for higher rate taxpayers.
- * Security - your Portfolio will always be in a British Government Stock or cash.
- * A high guaranteed return, stated in advance.
- * The return is a genuine capital gain from the purchase and sale of gilts.
- * These gains are not generated by converting accrued interest into capital gains.
- * Concise monthly statements.
- * Option to take a monthly income.
- * Open ended - withdrawals at any time within 2 working days.

For details, complete and return the coupon without delay.

Barlow Clowes & Partners
Gift Edged Specialists

To: Barlow Clowes & Partners Warford Court, Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AT.
Telephone: 01-588 0838 (24-hour answering service).
Please send me details of PORTFOLIO 78 without obligation.
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Address _____

How to choose an Investment

The bewildering array of investments currently available makes it difficult to choose. However, whatever your needs, aims and circumstances, there is an investment vehicle for you. In this age of inflation, volatile markets, fluctuating interest rates and constantly changing legislation, the choice is critical.

Menzies Mercantile specialise in helping you to make the most of your financial resources. We help you to define your objectives and devise an investment strategy accordingly. Our service does not stop there: we continue to monitor your investments, advising when to consolidate profits or take advantage of new investment opportunities available. Maximising your profit whilst ensuring your long term security.

If you have capital or annual income in excess of £30,000 you can benefit from FREE investment advice. As your introduction to our Investment Management Service, Menzies Mercantile will provide you with a detailed written appraisal, showing exactly how you can achieve your personal investment objectives. There is absolutely no charge for this investment appraisal. Choose us and we will make the correct investment choice for you.

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(PLEASE PRINT)
ADDRESS _____
COUNTRY _____ POST CODE _____
TEL (OFFICE) _____ (HOME) _____
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FAMILY MONEY

'Roll up' fund for US Treasury Bills

If you are looking for a new home for your 'roll up' funds now they have been hauled into the tax net or you are just keen on a low risk investment with a reasonable return. There is a Luxembourg-based mutual fund specializing in US Treasury Bills, which could be just for you.

It would not beat the new tax rules, though it is a roll up operation proposing to pay a very low or nil income. It offers a return in line with T-Bills (currently about 8.5 per cent) plus a gamble on the US dollar if you feel bullish about that. The fund itself is free from tax. This will be the first offshore fund specializing in US Treasury Bills although there are now 40 such specialists within the United States. Chairman Mr James Benham's own home-based Capital Preservation Fund, is he says, the oldest and largest of them with total net assets of more than \$2 billion in 150,000 accounts.

The new fund has a minimum investment of only \$1,000 with further investment in multiples of \$100. It has no initial charge.

Extra interest. No strings.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester is still the only major national building society to offer a full 1% extra interest with no strings at all.

Invest \$1000 or more in a Cheltenham Gold Account and we'll give you 1% extra interest paid annually plus 100% freedom to withdraw money immediately without any advance notice or loss of interest. Fall below £1000 and you still earn 7.25% net* 10.36% gross*.

Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest.

Invest £5000 or more in a Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest Account and we'll pay you extra interest monthly, direct to your bank. Better still, add the interest to your account each month and you'll earn the annual equivalent of 8.57% net* 12.24% gross*.

At your branch. Or by post-free.

You'll find your local branch in Yellow Pages. If there's no branch handy, use the coupon to open either of the Cheltenham Gold Accounts by Post. You can pay in or withdraw as you like.

We pay the first class postage. Whichever way you choose, it's your first step to total freedom.

*Current rates. The rate of interest paid on the Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest Account may vary from that paid on the Cheltenham Gold Account. *Gross equivalent for basic rate tax payers.

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

Chief Office: Cheltenham House, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 3JR. Tel: 0242 36161. Member of the Building Societies Association. Over 650 Branches and Agents. Assets exceed £482 million.

CHELTEHAM GOLD
8.25% net* 11.79% gross*
ON £1,000 OR MORE

CHELTEHAM GOLD
MONTHLY INTEREST
8.57% net* 12.24% gross*
ON £5,000 OR MORE

NO TERM. NO NOTICE. NO PENALTIES.

To: C&G Building Society, PO Box 124, FREEPOST, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 7PW.
I/we enclose £ to open a Gold By Post Account.
(Minimum £1,000, Maximum £30,000, Joint Account £60,000).
I/we enclose £ to open a Gold Monthly Interest Account By Post.
(Minimum £5,000, Maximum £30,000, Joint Account £60,000).
Please send more details.

Full Name (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Tax subsidies

Four-year plan has high rate of return

Investment advisor Richard Temple is refining his building society linked investment plan so lump sum investments can take advantage of enticing life assurance tax subsidies.

A lump sum of at least £2,500 is split into two. The bulk goes into a high yielding income bond which will fund annual payments for a 10-year building society linked savings plan. The regular savings plan qualifies for tax relief at the life assurance rate of 15 per cent. The rest of the money pays the first instalment on the building society plan.

The Inland Revenue will not allow the scheme to emphasize that the rate of return peaks after four years and a day - and investors are clearly better off if they withdraw after that period when the tax concessions cannot be clawed back. At current interest rates the yield after four years would be 14 per cent.

The plan is not linked to any one building society. Instead of using the plan to build up capital, it can be used to provide income for the first four years of its life - net of basic tax, the payouts will be 10 per cent, 10.25 per cent, 10.5 per cent and 11 per cent in the fourth year. The capital will remain intact, so after four years and a day, and a steady income £5,000 invested will be worth £5,039.

Using the plan to build up capital, £5,000 invested will build up to £10,192 in an ordinary building society account, whereas the same money invested in the R. J. Temple Building Society Plus Plan would grow to £12,778.

Estimated Cash Payout from £5,000 Investment over 10 years

	£
Building Society Ordinary	
Accrual accounts - interest 6 per cent	10,192
60 per cent taxpayer	7,503
Building Society Term Share	
60 per cent taxpayer	11,222
60 per cent taxpayer	7,957
National Savings 28th Issue Savings Certificate	
Building Society Plus Plan (R. J. Temple)	11,047
	12,778

*Not an estimate - guaranteed return.
Figures compiled by R. J. Temple.

Vivien Goldsmith

National insurance

Better-off come out worse in change

Next April's new National Insurance contributions are not, after all, going to mean a rise in the flat rate - only in what the better off have to pay.

As we predicted, the upper limit on contributions rises from £235 to £250 a week, so the man earning more than £12,220 a year is going to have to find another £1.35 a week extra, and his employer £1.71. Those in approved pension schemes escape with having to pay £1.07 more at most, their employers £1.17.

The self-employed have not been forgotten, either. The rise for a self-employed person with profits of around £13,000 a year works out at about £75. So, all in all, it is not as bad as it might have been. But the changes do highlight one or two interesting points.

Some people will have to pay less. At the moment, you do not start to pay National Insurance contributions until you earn £32.50 a week. Then you pay on everything up to, and above,

that. The new lower limit will be £34 a week. So someone now being paid, say, £33.99 will end up with about £2.90 more in his pocket. It does mean, of course, that anyone who pays no NI contributions runs the risk of not being eligible for state benefits if they need them.

Nevertheless, for someone earning that sort of money, £2.90 a week more is not to be laughed at. There is even a case for someone earning around the £34 a week mark taking a cut to bring pay to under that figure, even by a few pence. In some cases, a few pence lost on pay could mean a "rise" of almost £3 because of not having to pay contributions.

Anyone who works for more than one employer, and keeps the pay from each to below this £34 figure, could save quite a bit of money. This is because pay from different employers is not added together when contributions are paid. Working for five employers and getting £33.50 from each could mean a

saving of almost £15 a week in contributions.

Married women who pay the small stamp and earn more than £235 a week will also be hit in April, although the maximum rise will be only 77p a week. The other side of the coin is that married women who earn up to £34 a week could save £1.25 because of the change in the lower earnings level.

The ever-increasing amount some married women on the small stamp pay does raise a wider question: is it worth paying out something for nothing?

The new contribution levels will mean a married woman earning £250 a week, and on the small stamp, saying £9.62 a week. This is for nothing, as she cannot qualify for any state benefits or pension on these contributions. On the other hand, if she does want to start qualifying for state benefits, it could cost her £22.50 a week. The issue she has to face up to is: cash in hand now, or benefits later?

Ian McDonald

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Bank of England 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 Retirement Issue certificates purchased in December 1978, £177.28 including bonus and supplement.

National Savings Bank Ordinary accounts - interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent.

National Savings Certificate 28th Issue Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8.28 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

MONEY FUNDS

Fund Name	Price	APR	Telephone
Almura Ltd	8.85	8.00	01 588 5070
British Fund	8.75	8.11	01 628 8200
Capital Fund	8.75	8.05	01 588 2771
Capital Fund	8.75	8.11	01 488 8284
Capital Fund	8.75	8.11	01 488 8284
Capital Fund	8.75	8.11	01 488 8284
Capital Fund	8.75	8.11	01 488 8284
Capital Fund	8.75	8.11	01 488 8284
Capital Fund	8.75	8.11	01 488 8284
Capital Fund	8.75	8.11	01 488 8284

National Savings Deposit Bond Minimum investment £500 max £50,000, 11% per cent variable at six weeks notice. Credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during the first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. 2 years English Insurance 8.4 per cent, 3 years English Insurance 8.5 per cent, 4 years American Life 8.5 per cent, 5 years American Life 8.5 per cent.

Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 8 1/4 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers), 1 year Lambeth 9 1/4 per cent, 2 years Hyndburn 10 1/4 per cent, 4-9 years Knowsley 11 1/4 per cent, 10 years Worthing 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Loans Bureau (01-828 7855 after 3pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies Ordinary share accounts - 7.25 per cent. Term shares - 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 1.75 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes - 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Investors in Industry Fixed term, fixed rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction

of tax 3 years, 10% per cent; 4-5 years, 11 per cent; 6-10 years, 11% per cent; Further information from 31, Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT) Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. Five-Fifty scheme, 6 months 9 1/4 per cent; 1 year, 9 1/4 per cent; 2 years, 10 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Ltd. Reserves 0481 26741, seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

October RPI: 340.7 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

Owing to pressure on space we have had to hold over the monthly unit trust performance statistics until next Saturday.

Unit Trust Prices - change on the week

Unit Trust	Price	Change
Almura Ltd	8.85	+0.05
British Fund	8.75	+0.05
Capital Fund	8.75	+0.05
Capital Fund	8.75	+0.05
Capital Fund	8.75	+0.05
Capital Fund	8.75	+0.05
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Almura Ltd	8.85	+0.05
British Fund	8.75	+0.05
Capital Fund	8.75	+0.05
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Capital Fund	8.75	+0.05
Capital Fund	8.75	+0.05

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Tax relief Friendly society opens its doors

The tax benefits of investing in a friendly society are usually available only to those with dependants. But a new scheme from the Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society, in conjunction with Northern Rock Building Society, extends the tax advantages to a single person without dependants.

It is known as Money Maker Capital, for those with a lump sum to invest, or Money Maker Savers, for those who can save regularly over a 10-year term.

Investments in friendly societies attract tax relief at the life assurance rate of 15 per cent on all premiums paid and the fund itself pays no tax, so investments can roll up faster than in a conventional tax-paying fund.

The Mulic scheme, as it is known, offers an after-tax return of 13.5 per cent to a basic rate taxpayer, on what is effectively an investment in Northern Rock. The return is linked to building society rates and will be less if these come down.

Single people with dependants and married couples can apply to join any branch of Northern Rock. But single people without dependants will first have to join the Odd Fellows Manchester Unity (details from the head office in Manchester) before becoming eligible to invest in the scheme. This should cost about £4.

Investors in the 10-year regular savings scheme have the option of monthly contributions of £9.75, after tax relief, or £18.70. There is no charge on joining (unlike most other friendly society schemes), but there is a fairly hefty annual management fee of 7.5 per cent.

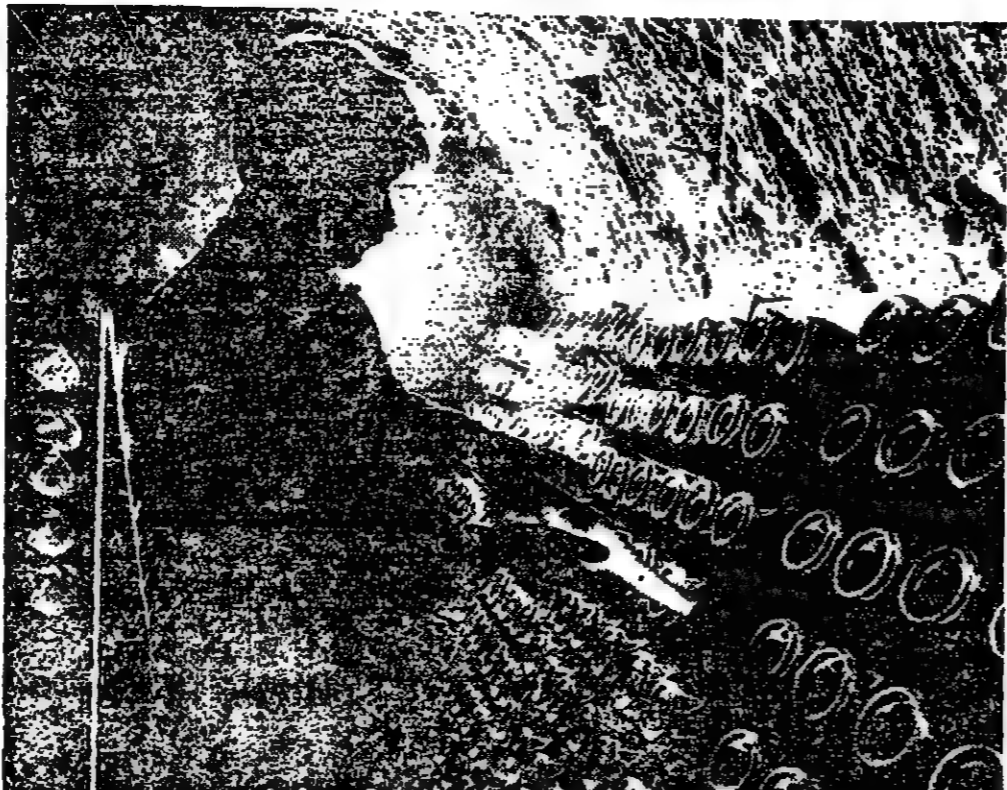
The balance, after deduction of fees, goes straight into an investment with Northern Rock. These regular savings schemes must be looked on as 10-year investments since, on early encashment, the friendly society is allowed to pay only a return of contributions.

The scheme is open to people between 16 and 69, resident in the United Kingdom, married, or single with dependants or members of the Odd Fellows Manchester Unity.

Lorna Bourke

Festive investment

Starting a wine cellar for Christmas and after



Storing with love and care

Christmas is an ideal time for starting a wine cellar - either for yourself or as a gift for a relative or friend.

Fortunately there are several schemes available which mean the donor does not have to incur the total cost, and which also cover the practical aspects such as correct storage.

The gift could be the first instalment of a regular monthly payment - a happy reminder of the 1983 Christmas for possibly years to come.

Balls Brothers (313 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E2 9LO) has two schemes, each costing £15 a month. Its Group Buying Plan allows you to purchase 24 mixed bottles of wine each year with delivery in June and December.

The current offer is of six bottles each of Chateau Luga-nac 1975, St Amour 1982 and Zwinger Himmelreich Spatlese 1979 and three bottles each of Meursault 1979 and Chablis Grand Cru Vaudeir.

Its Long Term Plan is for one annual distribution. The last wine offered was for 1982 Claret.

A linked wine investment and life assurance scheme is offered by Lloyd's Life Assurance and Lay and Wheeler (6 Culver Street, West, Colchester, Essex CO1 1JA). The monthly sum is £30, half of which is invested in wine. Lay and Wheeler will arrange a cellar for each purchaser or you can have a choice from their extensive list. There is a 5 per cent discount on all wines, except for the opening offers and special offers.

Complementary storage is included for the first year and subsequently costs £2.76 per

dozen bottles, including VAT. A plus here is that insurance is on the replacement value, whereas many schemes only cover for the purchase costs.

Hiscox & Co (146 Upper Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 4AP) has a scheme with a minimum of £10 per month and sends a wine selection every quarter, which may be mixed. There is a small carriage charge beyond its normal delivery area. Four tailor-made selections

are offered by Justerini and Brooks (61 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LZ and 39 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HN). They range from £15 to £62 monthly with discount for immediate payment.

Since this year's scheme started in July, if you join today, there is a choice of either doubling the monthly payment or paying one lump sum to cover the past six months and then at the monthly rate. Unit

One is composed of three Clarets and one dozen bottles each of a Rhine Kabinett and a Rhone.

The two top units offer the best investment potential, including such wines as Latour and Palmer, both 1981, and Sandeman Vintage Port 1977. There is complementary storage in the early years but insurance only at the purchase value.

Conal Gregory

Bullion

Gold price revival boosts markets

Gold proved to be the main source of excitement in the unit trust performance table last month. The sharp recovery in the bullion price, from \$376 an ounce to over \$405 at one stage, saw the FT Gold Mines index jump by nearly a quarter.

Various explanations have been given for gold's return to favour. These range from the jewelry trade's need to restock after good pre-Christmas retail sales in America to the Heathrow robbery of three tonnes of the metal catching the market short.

Whatever the reason, trusts investing in the gold mining market put up a good showing in November. Britannia's Gold & General fund marked up an 18.9 per cent offer price increase, while its closest competitor, Target Gold, achieved a 15.9 per cent gain.

The revival of the gold price was a welcome boost to the stock market in Australia, where the All Ordinaries index climbed more than 8 per cent to a record peak.

The stock market has been cheered by a number of factors: the recovery in industrial production, the improvement

in private capital investment, the marked slowing in wages growth, and the easing of domestic interest rates. On top of this, there has been speculation that the Australian dollar might shortly be revalued.

Responding to all this good news, several unit trusts specializing in Australia notched up some strong performances in November. Stewart Australian led the contingent with a 17.2 per cent price jump. FIK Australia, which is managed by the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank's merchant banking subsidiary in Melbourne, was the runner-up with a 15.1 per cent rise.

Elsewhere around the world, most stock markets registered gains last month. Continental Europe had some strong performers in the Dutch and French exchanges. This will certainly have helped the top performing European funds,

this year run by G. T. and Henderson.

Across the Atlantic, the Dow Jones industrial average adjusted for the strengthening dollar, was 6 per cent higher, ending the month just a little below its record level. Wall Street has been encouraged by a stream of good news covering the economy and prospects for corporate profits. Unfortunately, enthusiasm has waned slightly in recent days as the possibility of higher interest rates has again been discussed.

The best performance among the 60-strong list of unit trusts investing in the US came from Henderson American Recovery with a 40.6 per cent offer price increase. Equity & Law North America was second with a 9.1 per cent improvement.

Not all markets made headway in November. Both the Hongkong and Singapore indices were slightly lower. However, in both cases the market setbacks were more than offset by the recovery of the local currencies against sterling. Even so, Save & Prosper South East Asia and Gartmore Hongkong ended the month registering losses of around 2 per cent.

TOP PERFORMING UNIT TRUSTS

Unit Trust	Current value of £100 invest over 11 months to 1 December
1 GT European	186.2
2 Abbey Japan	179.6
3 Henderson European	172.1
4 Fidelity Japan	168.7
5 Oppenheimer International Growth	167.7
6 Aiken Hume Energy & Resources	164.8
7 Crescent Tokyo	164.7
8 Tynedell Australian Securities	162.9
9 TSB Pacific	160.5
10 M&G Japan & General	158.7

*Off-to-offer price basis - net income reinvested.
Source: Planned Savings Magazine

LAWSON PENNY SHARE FUND

Posseidon, Polly Peck, London & Liverpool... fortunes have been made and lost in penny shares. Timing and supervision is vital.

LAWSON PENNY SHARE FUND is a new unit trust authorised by the Department of Trade. It is invested in a spread of shares, quoted in pence (or the equivalent overseas). It aims to select a few future star performers. The object is capital growth.

UNITS ARE NOW OFFERED AT A FIXED PRICE of 15p (or the daily price if lower). This offer closes at 5pm Wednesday 21st December 1983.

Estimated gross annual yield 15%

The managers reserve the right to close this offer if the current price has risen by more than 2% from the fixed price and Units will be allocated thereafter at the current price. During an offer Units may be bought and sold daily - otherwise on Wednesday. A wider range of shares is available. The price and the income can go down as well as up. An initial charge of 6% is included in the price. A monthly fee of 0.16% is deducted from income and/or capital. Trustee and Registrar: Clydesdale Bank PLC (Member of the Midland Bank Group). Auditors: Ernst & Whinney C.A. **LAWSON FUND MANAGERS LTD**, 43 CHARLOTTE SQUARE, EDINBURGH EH2 4HL. TEL: 031-225 6001.

APPLICATION FORM

I enclose a cheque payable to Lawson Fund Managers Ltd to be invested in Lawson Penny Share Fund.

Signature _____
(Mr/Ms/Mrs/Title)
Surname _____

Forwards (in full please): _____
Address _____

MIN. HOLDING £400
Accumulation Units Only
(Income Re-invested)

"Roll-up" funds:

The Prolific alternative with real growth potential

Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust aims for maximum capital growth through investment principally in Government securities. Growth of over 50% in the 2 years to 1st December 1983 proves that this objective is being met. And by producing a low level of income a tax-efficient return is being achieved.

Good prospects for Gilts

The outlook for investment in the UK Gilt market is good.

There are several reasons for this. Firstly, the Government is firmly committed to keeping its borrowing in check - the Chancellor emphasised this in his recent autumn statement. Secondly, there is every prospect that inflation will be contained around the current rate of 5% throughout 1984. Thirdly, this combination should result in a sustained fall in interest rates.

Given these favourable conditions, we believe that high-interest longer-term stocks offer the

greatest potential for capital growth. Such stocks, therefore, currently make up the bulk of the Trust's investments.

Tax-efficient

As the chart shows, Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust has out-performed the FTA All-Gilts Index in capital growth terms by a considerable margin since it was launched on 1st June 1981. It is this emphasis on capital growth rather than income which makes the Trust a tax-efficient investment, particularly for higher-rate payers.

The current gross yield is 2.5% (8th December 1983).

1% discount for prompt investors

If you invest a lump sum of £1000 or more by 16th January 1984, you will receive a 1% discount in the form of additional units.

How to invest

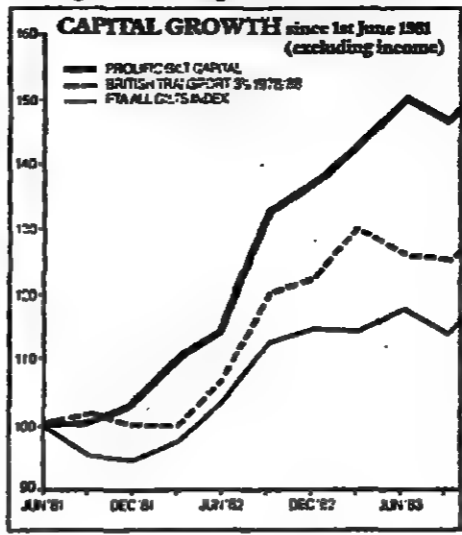
To invest in Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust, simply complete the subscription form below and return it with your cheque. The minimum investment is £500.

Although we are optimistic about the prospects for this investment, please remember that the price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up, particularly over the short term.

For your guidance, the offer (buying) price of units on 8th December was 78.1p (x2).

Selling your units

You can sell your units back to the Managers on any business day at the bid (selling) price ruling on receipt of your instructions. Payment will usually be made within ten working days of receipt of your renounced certificate.



General Information
Managers: Prolific Unit Trusts, 222 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JS. Telephone: 01-247 7544.

Trustee: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Prices and yield: Unit prices are calculated daily and both the prices and the yield are quoted each day in the national press.

Income distribution dates: 20th June and 20th December.
Charges: An initial charge of 3.4% is included in the offer price of units. The annual charge is 4% plus VAT and is deducted

from the income of the Trust. The Managers have discretion to increase the charge to a maximum of 4% on 3 months' notice to unitholders.

Commission Payable to intermediaries. Rates are available on request.

Prolific Unit Trusts is the trading name of Provincial Life Investment Company Limited.

Registered in England No. 959864.
Registered Office: Strimington, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BE.

Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust

To: Prolific Unit Trusts, Administration Centre, FREEPOST, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8BR.

I/We wish to invest £ (minimum £500) in Prolific Gilt Capital Unit Trust at the offer price ruling on receipt of this offer (less a 1% discount on an investment of £1000 or more). A cheque for this amount, made out to Prolific Unit Trusts, is enclosed. I and I/We are over 18 years of age.

Name _____ Title/Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address _____

In the case of joint subscriptions, full names and signatures should be attached on a separate sheet of paper. T1 10/12 1983.
☐ Please tick here if you wish all unit income to be automatically re-invested in additional units.
☐ Please tick here if you would like a local independent intermediary to provide you with details of our monthly savings arrangements which offer life assurance and tax relief.

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.



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You?

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ABN Bank	9%
Bancards	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	10 1/4%
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C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

* Mortgage rates from 10% to 15%
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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings begin, Monday. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

Another fight for UBM?

Hopes were growing last night that the battle for control of the UBM Group, may soon be on again. Shares of Norcross rebounded 6 1/2p to a new "high" of 149 1/2p, amid speculation that it had been approached for its 43.1 per cent stake after failing with its own £75m bid in October. Lord Hanson's Hanson Trust, sitting on about £400m in cash, is tipped as a possible buyer. A spokesman for Norcross commented: "It's just a market rumour. I can't comment on rumours." Shares of UBM held steady at 122 1/2p - just 6p short of the year's "high" - and only 3p below Norcross's 125p cash offer.

At this level, the group is valued at £72m - well within the £100m-£120m range of Hanson Trust. Norcross's bid for UBM failed because it could not reach agreement with UBM's other big shareholders, including Colquhoun Holdings, the private arm of Newbury, with 9.5 per cent of the shares and Equity Capital for Industry with 10.2 per cent.

Merchant banker Morgan Grenfell also holds a further 10 per cent of the equity on behalf

of its clients. However, it might prove a different story for Lord Hanson just fresh from his triumphs at UDS Group and currently holding 9.4 per cent of

Shares of engineer Christy Bros rose 1p to a new high of 34p as a mystery buyer appeared. Yesterday he bought 30,000 shares, taking his holding to 103,000, or just over 5 per cent. This has led to speculation among Christy's other big shareholders that a bid may be on the way. Clients of broker Simon & Coates own around 40 per cent. Security Finance, a subsidiary of the directors 12 per cent. At this level the group is valued at £680,000.

London Brick. Elsewhere, the rest of the equity market ended the account on a subdued note after its recent record-breaking run, with the FT index closing at 3.1 down on the day at 757.1. The renewed weakness of the pound produced falls of up to

75p in gilts, with the Government broker experiencing little demand for the new tranches of top stock announced earlier in this week.

Rio-Tinto Zinc has decided to withdraw its offer for BET's 5 per cent stake in the Maurean Field which came into production in September.

Instead, BET has sold the stake to Century Power & Light, a subsidiary of Imperial Continental Gas and Ultramar, which between them, already own 15 per cent of the Maurean Field. IC Gas and Ultramar have agreed to the same terms as offered to RTZ, valuing BET's stake at £60m.

Shares of BET rose 3p to 27 1/2p on the news. Lord Weinstock's GEC slipped 2p to 193p after confirmation that it was one of a number of companies approached by the Government to put cash into Inmos, the state-owned micro-chip business. GEC said it could take a

stake, or bid for the whole company. But it stressed that no decisions had been taken and it may reject the Government's offer. At the last count, GEC was sitting on a cash mountain of over £1,400m.

Dares Estates has decided to remove the threat of a possible bid from Mr Swarby Paul's Caparo Investments by buying him out. The chairman and managing director of Dares have between them paid 28p a share for Caparo's 4.2 million shares - 13.8 per cent of the total. Dares responded with a 2p rise to 20p yesterday.

Boots slipped 3p to 179p after 175p, after hearing of the Government's proposals to claw-back some of the huge profits earned by drug companies supplying the National Health Service. But broker de Zoete & Bevan is still tipping the shares as a "buy". De Zoete reckons the shares should

perform well over the next six months.

Two more newcomers joined the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday, bringing this week's total to four. Kenyon Securities, the funeral services group, opened at 168p, compared to the placing price of 139p. The shares ended the day at 170p - a premium of 31p.

Brokers Williams de Broe placed the 300,000 shares, about 22 per cent of the issued total. At this level, Kenyon is valued at £2.5m.

But High-Point Services, the professional advisory, management and financial services group, made a disappointing debut after broker Coni Gilbert & Sankey placed 994,000 shares at 137p. They opened at 139p and closed at 140p - a premium of 3p.

Shares of Fitch & Co., the interior design consultant, slipped 5p to 255p after Mr Ron Baker, managing director, announced his intention to resign for personal reasons.

Mr Rodney Fitch, the chairman, and fellow director Mr Crispin Tweddell, will become joint managing directors.

INVESTORS NOTEBOOK

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS EVERY DAY

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
100	100	100	Admiral	100	0	0	0	0
101	101	101	Admiral	101	0	0	0	0
102	102	102	Admiral	102	0	0	0	0
103	103	103	Admiral	103	0	0	0	0
104	104	104	Admiral	104	0	0	0	0
105	105	105	Admiral	105	0	0	0	0
106	106	106	Admiral	106	0	0	0	0
107	107	107	Admiral	107	0	0	0	0
108	108	108	Admiral	108	0	0	0	0
109	109	109	Admiral	109	0	0	0	0
110	110	110	Admiral	110	0	0	0	0

SHIPPING

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
111	111	111	Admiral	111	0	0	0	0
112	112	112	Admiral	112	0	0	0	0
113	113	113	Admiral	113	0	0	0	0
114	114	114	Admiral	114	0	0	0	0
115	115	115	Admiral	115	0	0	0	0
116	116	116	Admiral	116	0	0	0	0
117	117	117	Admiral	117	0	0	0	0
118	118	118	Admiral	118	0	0	0	0
119	119	119	Admiral	119	0	0	0	0
120	120	120	Admiral	120	0	0	0	0

OIL

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
121	121	121	Admiral	121	0	0	0	0
122	122	122	Admiral	122	0	0	0	0
123	123	123	Admiral	123	0	0	0	0
124	124	124	Admiral	124	0	0	0	0
125	125	125	Admiral	125	0	0	0	0
126	126	126	Admiral	126	0	0	0	0
127	127	127	Admiral	127	0	0	0	0
128	128	128	Admiral	128	0	0	0	0
129	129	129	Admiral	129	0	0	0	0
130	130	130	Admiral	130	0	0	0	0

PROPERTY

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
131	131	131	Admiral	131	0	0	0	0
132	132	132	Admiral	132	0	0	0	0
133	133	133	Admiral	133	0	0	0	0
134	134	134	Admiral	134	0	0	0	0
135	135	135	Admiral	135	0	0	0	0
136	136	136	Admiral	136	0	0	0	0
137	137	137	Admiral	137	0	0	0	0
138	138	138	Admiral	138	0	0	0	0
139	139	139	Admiral	139	0	0	0	0
140	140	140	Admiral	140	0	0	0	0

PLANTATIONS

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
141	141	141	Admiral	141	0	0	0	0
142	142	142	Admiral	142	0	0	0	0
143	143	143	Admiral	143	0	0	0	0
144	144	144	Admiral	144	0	0	0	0
145	145	145	Admiral	145	0	0	0	0
146	146	146	Admiral	146	0	0	0	0
147	147	147	Admiral	147	0	0	0	0
148	148	148	Admiral	148	0	0	0	0
149	149	149	Admiral	149	0	0	0	0
150	150	150	Admiral	150	0	0	0	0

MISCELLANEOUS

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
151	151	151	Admiral	151	0	0	0	0
152	152	152	Admiral	152	0	0	0	0
153	153	153	Admiral	153	0	0	0	0
154	154	154	Admiral	154	0	0	0	0
155	155	155	Admiral	155	0	0	0	0
156	156	156	Admiral	156	0	0	0	0
157	157	157	Admiral	157	0	0	0	0
158	158	158	Admiral	158	0	0	0	0
159	159	159	Admiral	159	0	0	0	0
160	160	160	Admiral	160	0	0	0	0

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
161	161	161	Admiral	161	0	0	0	0
162	162	162	Admiral	162	0	0	0	0
163	163	163	Admiral	163	0	0	0	0
164	164	164	Admiral	164	0	0	0	0
165	165	165	Admiral	165	0	0	0	0
166	166	166	Admiral	166	0	0	0	0
167	167	167	Admiral	167	0	0	0	0
168	168	168	Admiral	168	0	0	0	0
169	169	169	Admiral	169	0	0	0	0
170	170	170	Admiral	170	0	0	0	0

RECENT ISSUES

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
171	171	171	Admiral	171	0	0	0	0
172	172	172	Admiral	172	0	0	0	0
173	173	173	Admiral	173	0	0	0	0
174	174	174	Admiral	174	0	0	0	0
175	175	175	Admiral	175	0	0	0	0
176	176	176	Admiral	176	0	0	0	0
177	177	177	Admiral	177	0	0	0	0
178	178	178	Admiral	178	0	0	0	0
179	179	179	Admiral	179	0	0	0	0
180	180	180	Admiral	180	0	0	0	0

High Low Stock

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
181	181	181	Admiral	181	0	0	0	0
182	182	182	Admiral	182	0	0	0	0
183	183	183	Admiral	183	0	0	0	0
184	184	184	Admiral	184	0	0	0	0
185	185	185	Admiral	185	0	0	0	0
186	186	186	Admiral	186	0	0	0	0
187	187	187	Admiral	187	0	0	0	0
188	188	188	Admiral	188	0	0	0	0
189	189	189	Admiral	189	0	0	0	0
190	190	190	Admiral	190	0	0	0	0

RECENT ISSUES

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
191	191	191	Admiral	191	0	0	0	0
192	192	192	Admiral	192	0	0	0	0
193	193	193	Admiral	193	0	0	0	0
194	194	194	Admiral	194	0	0	0	0
195	195	195	Admiral	195	0	0	0	0
196	196	196	Admiral	196	0	0	0	0
197	197	197	Admiral	197	0	0	0	0
198	198	198	Admiral	198	0	0	0	0
199	199	199	Admiral	199	0	0	0	0
200	200	200	Admiral	200	0	0	0	0

RECENT ISSUES

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
201	201	201	Admiral	201	0	0	0	0
202	202	202	Admiral	202	0	0	0	0
203	203	203	Admiral	203	0	0	0	0
204	204	204	Admiral	204	0	0	0	0
205	205	205	Admiral	205	0	0	0	0
206	206	206	Admiral	206	0	0	0	0
207	207	207	Admiral	207	0	0	0	0
208	208	208	Admiral	208	0	0	0	0
209	209	209	Admiral	209	0	0	0	0
210	210	210	Admiral	210	0	0	0	0

RECENT ISSUES

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	% P/E
211	211	211	Admiral	211	0	0	0	0
212	212	212	Admiral	212	0	0	0	0
213	213	213	Admiral	213	0	0	0	0
214	214	214	Admiral	214	0	0	0	0
215	215	215	Admiral	215	0	0	0	0
216	216	216	Admiral	216	0	0	0	0
217	217	217	Admiral	217	0	0	0	0
218	218	218	Admiral	218	0	0	0	0
219	219	219	Admiral	219	0	0	0	0
220	220	220	Admiral	220	0	0	0	0

RECENT ISSUES

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div
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Norway Sweden qualified for semi-finals.

Scales to tilt in favour of Fifty Dollars More

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Following his exceptionally good effort against that talented steeplechaser Wayward Lad at Huntingdon last month, Fifty Dollars More can give the trainer Fred Winter his second successive success in the Kennedy Construction Gold Cup at Cheltenham today.

To run Wayward Lad to a short head over two and a half miles at level weights is an achievement indeed. It suggests that Fifty Dollars More is at his peak once more, and in that sort of form - he was only just beaten by the same horse in the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton last Boxing Day - he should prove capable of giving weight and a beating to his 12 rivals this afternoon.

Last season, Fifty Dollars More won the Mackeson Gold Cup and in so doing showed that today's course and distance holds no fears for him. When Fifty Dollars More tried to win the same race again last month two things conspired against him: the lack of match practice and a pricked foot the night before. Even so, he still ran well until tiring approaching the last fence, leaving Pountaines and St Alazan to fight out that memorable finish up the hill.

On that occasion the advantage lay with those two, who had had eight races between them earlier in the autumn. Now that Fifty Dollars More has got two races under his belt, the balance of power could easily shift in his favour and I expect to see him beat King of Country 100. Incidentally,

Pountaines will be endeavouring to become the first horse to win this race (previously the Massey-Ferguson) and the Mackeson in the same season.

A greater threat to my selection could easily come from a hard core comprising Little Bay, The Tasarvich, and Saint Taffy. Whether or not you approve of his style, John O'Neill still succeeded in getting the best out of Little Bay at Ayr last month and that is never an easy thing to do. Today O'Neill will be endeavouring to hold him up until the last possible second again before unleashing his challenge.

The Tasarvich is not the easiest of rides either, not that he did anything wrong when he won the H. and T. Walker Goddard Steeplechase at Ascot last month. However his task was made infinitely easier on that occasion by those mishaps which befell three of his most fancied rivals and he may lack the experience of his principal opponents.

A Kinsman, the winner of the Waterford Crystal Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham last March, looks the best of the day in the Fred Withington Novices Steeplechase even though Duke of Milan and West Tip are among his opponents. A Kinsman made a deep impression on hardened professionals this season, when winning all his steeplechases so far, at Ayr and Newcastle.

Gaye Brief, the Champion hurdler, has been withdrawn from the Tia Maria Bula



Fifty Dollars More, fancied for Cheltenham's Kennedy Construction Gold Cup

Hurdle. Mrs Mercy Rimell, his trainer, is relying instead upon his pace-maker, Migrator and to his name last season with a string of victories. Without the benefit of a previous race, Very Promising may not be able to give 4lb to Amarach who so nearly beat Dawn Run at Ascot. The loss of Sandown's fixture a week ago is Cheltenham's gain, because it has resulted in those budding young jumpers Absarokee and Statesman clashing for the first time in the Triumph Hurdle trial. While there was plenty to like about the way the Statesman won at Ascot, there was also a great deal to admire in the way that Absarokee hurdled at Kempton and he is preferred.

At Cheltenham yesterday Nicky Henderson celebrated the birth of his second daughter Thursday night in style by saddling Linawa to win the Coral Golden Hurdle qualifier was won by Lawnswood Miss but O'Neill never threw the race away. He and the mare, were in complete command throughout the second circuit but on the run-in, believing he had the race in safe keeping, he dropped his hands and took too much easily. As a result, Sam Morshed, who had been riding his head off for a long while on the favourite, Papa's Buskins, suddenly began to cut down the lead hand over fist. Passing the winning post, there was only a short head in it.

more than able deputy although luck was on his side because Burnt Oak probably would have won had he not made a hash of jumping the fourth last fence when going well in the lead. The Coral Golden Hurdle qualifier was won by Lawnswood Miss but O'Neill never threw the race away. He and the mare, were in complete command throughout the second circuit but on the run-in, believing he had the race in safe keeping, he dropped his hands and took too much easily. As a result, Sam Morshed, who had been riding his head off for a long while on the favourite, Papa's Buskins, suddenly began to cut down the lead hand over fist. Passing the winning post, there was only a short head in it.

Cheltenham

Going: Good to firm.

Total: Double 1.40, 2.50, Treble 1.5, 2.15, 3.25

(Television (BBC 1) 1.5, 1.40 and 2.15 races)

12.30 GEORGE STEVENS CHASE (handicap; £3,908; 2m) (10 runners)

104 3-20122 WESTERN ROSE (C) (Mrs M. P. Jones) 11-11-7 S. Marshfield
105 2-21111 BOLD YEMMAN (C) (Mrs H. A. Jones) 11-11-7 S. Marshfield
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Sunday

CHANNEL 4

as Steve and Reg in the comedy
channel 4 8.45 pm

CHANNEL 4

1.20 Irish Angel. The week's news
as seen by the Irish television
networks.

1.50 Film: Arvind Desai (The
Strange Fate of Arvind Desai)
(1978). Hindustani-made film
about the son of a wealthy
Bombay businessman whose
career seems to be following
the conventional pattern until
he discovers he cannot control
his life. Directed by Saeed
Akhtar Mirza (subtitled).

4.00 Birds of Britain. The ingenious
methods and disguises used
by birds when their lives are
threatened.

4.30 City Priest. The work of
Michael Armitage, a priest in a
Brixton parish.

5.00 News headlines and weather
followed by Book Four,
introduced by Hermione Lee.
South African playwright Athol
Fugard discusses how far
playwright should compromise
with an oppressive regime to
ensure that his work is
performed.

5.45 The Outsiders. John Pilger
talks to Greek film-maker
Costa-Gavras.

6.15 American Football. Cleveland
in action in Denver.

7.15 The World at War. Stalingrad,
June 1942 - February 1943 the
period when Hitler became
over-confident of his army's
ability to conquer the
Russians.

8.15 Tell the Truth. Comedy panel
game presented by Grahame
Garden.

8.45 Struggle. The third
programme in the comedy
series about a group of left-
wing socialists in power in a
London borough.

9.20 People to People: Letter to
Poland. The loneliness of
Polish exiles, hoping for a
newly independent Poland.

10.20 Muzan Buchstetransangur.
Cartoon series with an odious
hero.

10.30 The Elephant and the
Woodcutter. A February in Politics
Special. A report on the
current Euro-missile crisis.
Introduced by Peter Jay with
Hilary White and John Barry.
What did the Euro-missile say
begin? and how will it end?
There are reports from
Washington, Geneva, Bonn,
Brussels and London.

11.50 Cutdowns.

11.50 The Complete Webber: Vol 1

Radio 1

1.05 **Jay Amelung:** recited by the soprano, with Rudolf Jansen as accompanist. 15 minutes. By Jol Waldman, Schubert, Wolf, Schuman, Brahms, Debussy, Faure, Poulenc, Chausson, Debussy and Stravinsky.

2.00 **Purcell and Barltwistle:** Chamber music recited by the Music Party. Purcell's "Chacony" in G major, 7:30 and Purcell and Diet (Suite in G, 7:27) and Barltwistle's "Claretine" Quartet. 1.

2.45 **Bayreuth 1937:** Wagner's Siegfried, sung in German. Act 1. Sir George Solti conducts the Bayreuth festival. With Manfred Jung in the title role; Peter Hagen (Mime), Ben Norup (Der Wanderer), Hermann (Alberich), Hans (Hagen), and Schwaikopf (Farnah). Anne Gjevang (Edda), Hildebrand (Brünnhilde) and Sylvia Rosenberg (Waldvogel).

4.10 **A Closer Look:** Vernon Scarff conducts the poetry of Wilfred Owen.

4.40 **Siegfried:** Act 2.1

5.30 **The Reith Lectures 1982:** Government and the Government. The fifth of six talks by Sir Douglas Wess. Tonight's talk called Opening up Government.

6.15 **Reith:** Act 2.2

7.30 **Elliot Carter:** The American composer is 75. This is the first of two programmes tonight (the other is at 10.35) celebrating his birthday. First, he talks to Charles Rosen.

8.15 **Lord Bunsen:** performance his farcical one-act play.

8.30 **Hoccup Day:** Play, by Harry Berlon. Simple story, but cleverly constructed. A birdie with, set in Northern Ireland. This was the play that won the 1982 Cottesloe Playwriting Award for radio drama (P).

9.00 **Messiah at 75:** A performance on record, of a Spallington Symphony of 1948.

10.25 **She Used to Live:** Wetzel's story by Jack Trevor.

10.35 **Carl Gustav:** Gustav Balle (cello) and Kathrion Sturrock (cello) perform the Cello Sonata.

LEVISION VARIATIONS

CHANNEL As London except:
Starts 1.55 pm-2.00
Good News, 2.30 1.55 3.15-3.25
Cartoon, 3.30-4.30 3.30-4.30
Lewkes Man, 12.30 am Close-down.

TYNE TELES As London except:
12.30 Link, 12.30-1.00

SPREAD YOUR WINGS, 11.30 Harbours for 10.00pm University Celebration, 1.30pm
Farming Outdoors, 2.30 The Big Harvest
Autumn Time, 4.00 1990 Harvest
The Prairie, 5.32-6.30 Battershall
Galactica, 12.30pm Choir of St Hilary
St Bede College, Durham, Closesown

GRAMPIAN As London except
Stars 9.45pm
Educational Short, 10.00-11.00 The
Theatre, 11.00-11.30
10.00pm University Celebrations, 1.30
Farming Outdoors, 2.30 Aberdeen
Inventing Curling Trough, 3.30 Low
Boat, 4.30 Scotland, 5.30 Battershall
Autumn Time, 6.30-7.30
Reflections, Closesown.

SCOTTISH As London except
9.25pm-9.30p
10.00-11.00 Sassenae Short, 11.30
About Gaelic 1.00pm
Autumn Time, 1.30 Farming Outdoors
Songs of Celebration, 2.30 World
Famous Felyzates, 2.45 Glen Gie
Cavalcade, 3.20 Theatre
Challenger, 3.30-4.00
Falcon Crest, 12.30 Lyle Cell,
Closesdown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

GRAPMIAN As London exco Starts 9.45am
Educational 11.00-11.30
Teatime 11.30-12.00 Herbs For
1,000m University Challenge, 1.30
Farming Outlook, 2.30 Aberdeen
Invitation Carding Trophy, 3.30 Low
Roar, 4.30 Scotland, 5.30 Bulfinch
6.00-6.20 Tarrabawki, 6.25am
Reflections, Closesdown.

SCOTTISH As London exco
9.45am-9.55am
10.00-11.00 Seacure Story, 11.30
About Gaelic 1,000m University
Challenge, 1.30 Farming Outlook,
Songs of Celebration, 2.30 World
Famous Feilidh, 3.30 Tarrabawki,
Caledonia, 4.30 Tarrabawki, 4.50
Bulfinch, 4.50 Scotland, 5.30-6.00
Falcon Crest, 6.20 Lyle Call,
Closesdown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
 † Stereo. ★ Black and white. (†) Flip.

7. Specimen in black and white. (7) Reps.

PLO say Israel is blocking exodus

From Our Own Correspondent Beirut

A short and largely ineffective bombardment of Palestinian positions in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli by Israeli gunboats prompted Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization officials to claim yesterday that Israel wanted to prevent the evacuation of Palestinian guerrillas.

Mr Arafat's spokesman went so far as to say the short raid had "cut the road between Tripoli and the world" although the Israelis said later that they were not trying to prevent the evacuation.

Israeli naval gunfire killed one guerrilla during the night attack and wounded two more but otherwise did little damage. Elsewhere in the Lebanon, it was a day of almost routine fighting. Shia Muslim gunmen opened fire on American Marines during the morning, wounding one of them, while Syrian anti-aircraft guns in the Bekaa Valley shot at Israeli jets flying near their positions.

A Syrian military spokesman in Damascus said one of the aircraft was hit - he significantly did not say it had been shot down - and that an Israeli "air target" was destroyed south-west of Tartus in north-west Syria. The latter was presumably a pilotless reconnaissance drone. If the report is true, it would be the first such reconnaissance operation carried out by the small aircraft in that part of Syria.

● **JERUSALEM:** The Israeli Cabinet is expected to discuss the military options for preventing Mr Arafat from leaving Tripoli when it meets in Jerusalem tomorrow (Christopher Walker writes).

● **BRUSSELS:** Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, yesterday came out in favour of the evacuation of the PLO from Tripoli (Jan Murray writes).

"Evacuation, and anything that will help cure the problem (of foreign forces in Lebanon) is something we favour", he said.



Robert Stephens as Euphoria



Derek Newark as Gloria



Prince Charming: Susan Fleetwood

British pantomime returns

By David Hewson

Two years ago the traditional British pantomime was pronounced dead. Now the painted dames, sackcloth horses, and leggy principal boys are sufficiently back in fashion to give their customary reply - "ah no, it isn't".

Four pantomimes, if you count Peter Pan, are being presented in the West End of London during the holiday, more than any Christmas for a decade.

Last year, nearly a quarter of a million theatregoers flocked to the West End after Christmas. Bookings for the period are running so high that most of the shows are expected to sell out in the next few days.

The flourishing pantomime business is reflected in the provinces where the Christmas show is frequently the one profitable highlight in the theatrical year.

Advance bookings for the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, in the East End of London, had reached 25,000 by the end of July, and stood at 38,000 by the beginning of this month. Local firms, schools, and unions have bought whole houses. Mr Mark Borkowski, the theatre's spokesman, said this week: "Frankly, I am having trouble fitting the press in."

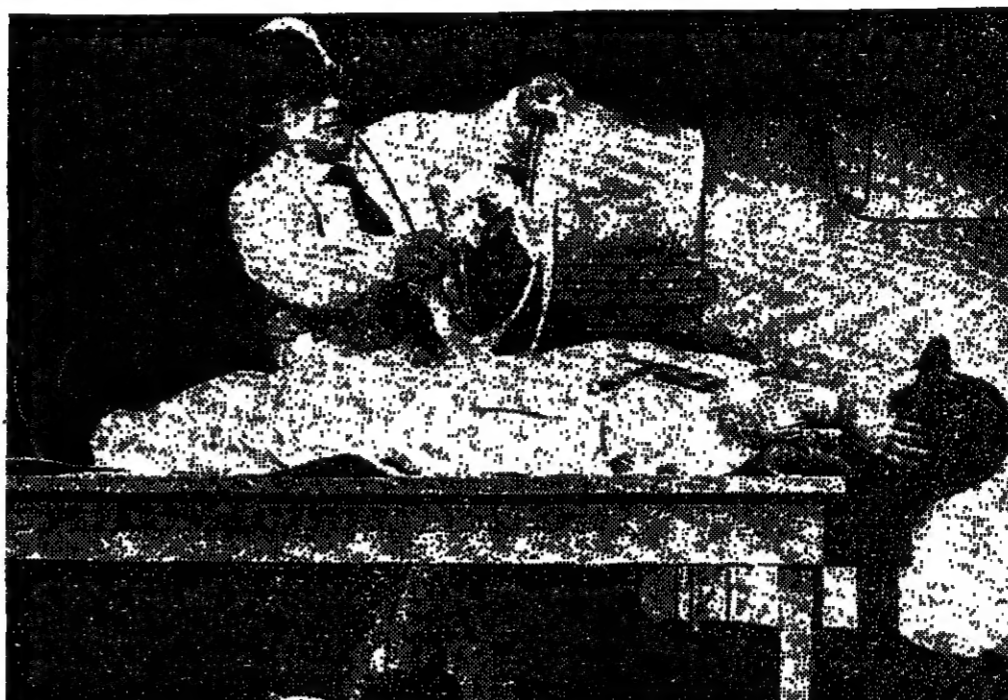
One of Britain's leading pantomime impresarios, Mr Paul Elliott, is promoting 13 shows from London to Belfast, and two abroad, in Canada and Zimbabwe.

The National Theatre has entered the pantomime business for the first time this year with Cinderella. Its director, Mr Bill Bryden, said that the production, which opens on December 15, will have its quota of ugly sisters and standard pantomime jokes. "We have been trying to do a

panto for years but have only just got around to it. I just think it is a good opportunity to get back to some of the kind of values and performances that aren't associated with television or modern influences, to try to tell a fairy story. It is innocent, simple entertainment."

The National has searched Edwardian and Victorian archives to come up with authentic scripts and the pantomime will not contain topical jokes, unlike many of its rivals and the popular Royal Shakespeare Company adult pantomime-cum-musical Poppy at the Adelphi.

Whether the box office promises of the rash of new shows will be kept through January is something which will continue to give impresarios sleepless nights. But for the moment, they are happy to welcome the successful pantomime back into the theatrical fold.



The 'slosh scene': Anthony Trent and Stephen Petcher

Weekend decision faced by NGA

(Continued from page 1)

it resumed picketing of his Winwick Quay plant. "We have the law to defend us."

Times Newspapers, publishers of The Times and The Sunday Times and News Group Newspapers, publishers of The Sun and the News of the World were yesterday granted interlocutory injunctions restraining the NGA from picketing or persuading employees to break their contracts of employment. The orders were made by Mr Justice Canley in the High Court in London. Other Fleet Street newspaper publishers were granted similar injunctions last week.

Mr Wade said last night that the Messenger Group had rejected his union's attempt to solve the dispute through negotiation. "Mr Shah, in taking this step, completely ignored and rejected the NGA's willingness to talk day and night to reach a negotiated settlement and to continue a truce for another seven days."

"His actions show that a maverick employer like Mr Shah can use the Government's employment legislation against NGA members to depress their wages and employment conditions, victimize them and at the same time destroy the union."

Peace talks under the auspices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service broke down early yesterday after four days. The main sticking point appeared to be the union's insistence on a closed shop for all Mr Shah's print workers.

Asked if there had been any significant shifts, Mr Shah said: "Not really. We have given on things and they have given on things, but we have always got back to the principle of the closed shop and there is no easy solution to that."

The Institute of Directors, which has reportedly been advising Mr Shah, accused the NGA of failing to negotiate in good faith. Mr Walter Goldsmith, director-general of the institute called on the TUC to restrain the union from further unlawful action.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

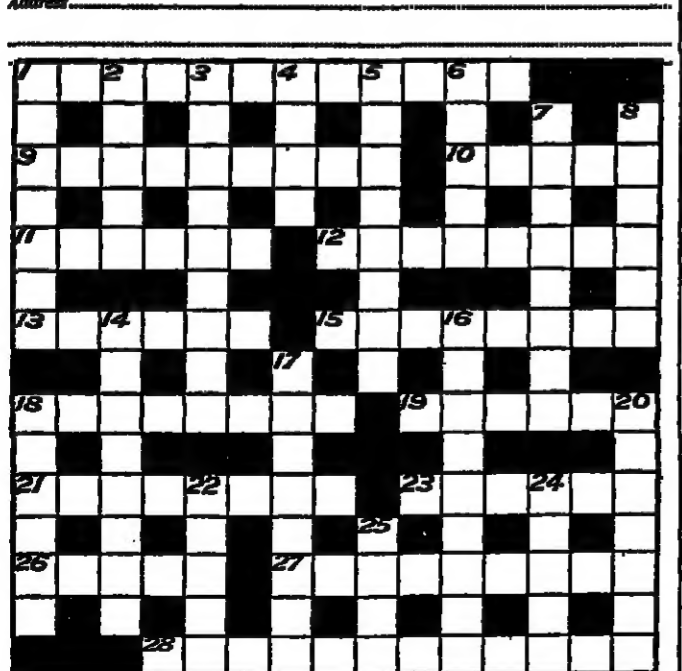
New exhibitions
South Yorkshire Open Art Exhibition, Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire: 1 to 5.30, Wed to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Mon (ends Jan 8).
What is Conservation? an exhibition looking at conservation of historic artefacts, James Dun's House, 61 School Hill, Aberdeen: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).

Solutions of Puzzle No 16,300
ACROSS
1. ...
DOWN
1. ...

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,306

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Crossword Competition, 12 Colley Street, London WC9P 9TT. The winners and solutions will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mrs A. B. Johnson, 32 Darley Crescent, Truro, Ayrshire; R. T. Denon, 199 Drake Street, Rochdale, Lancashire; W. C. Layton, 19 Malvern Park Avenue, Solihull, W. Midlands.



- ACROSS**
- 1 I take Peter's pills to become bats (12).
 - 9 Drawing out notecase (9).
 - 10 Feature about love and the marriage (5).
 - 11 See boy concerning a reversal of an electrode (6).
 - 12 Scheme to upset spila in the middle (8).
 - 13 Embrace? No, fled wildly (6).
 - 15 Loose conduct in such property (8).
 - 16 Giving everything to be paid (8).
 - 19 Lower rank Roman to be between the sides (6).
 - 21 The Spanish girl has a jolly abundant count (8).
 - 23 Increase for worthless youngster (4,2).
 - 26 Fireside game? (5).
 - 27 "Let it alone; let's to -- come, Charmin' (4 and C) (9).
 - 28 Do immature inventors make good horticulturists? (5,7).
- DOWN**
- 1 Bishop is still extant, presumably (7).
 - 2 Keep not oven to help in making (5).
 - 3 FA caps Owl involved in naval base (5,4).
 - 4 Philosopher in the plant, say (4).
 - 5 General Committee measure to stop drift (3,5).
 - 6 Hemingway almost gets the bird? More than one (5).
 - 7 Game for dim 10 perhaps (8).
 - 8 Come to the top and carry out (6).
 - 14 Sovereign's Latin title likely to be confused in February (4,4).
 - 16 Performance by Ko-Ko? (9).
 - 17 Can't be taken in, even by gnomes for punishment (8).
 - 18 Where a chestnut-muncher's husband had gone (6).
 - 20 Lies about puzzles (7).
 - 22 Russell's dichotomy in basic education is not so common (5).
 - 24 Point in simple contract (5).
 - 25 This fixes the pitch when it is almost fissured (4).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 17

Christmas carols

Today
Lincoln Choral Christmas Concert, Lincoln Minster, 7.30pm.
Cantata Club perform Six Carols of Carol Waterbach Parish Church, Cambridge, 8.00pm.

A seasonal organ recital by Gillian Ward Russell, St Peter-Ad-Vincula Church, Coggeshall, 8.00pm.
Rochester Choral Society concert, Rochester Cathedral, 7.30pm.

Concert of Christmas music and rare carols, by the Chantry Singers, St Stephens Church, Lansdowne, Bath, (tel. 333527).

Thaxted Festival Orchestra and Band of the 1st Queen's Dragon Guards in a concert of Christmas Music and Carols, 6.30pm, Thaxted Church, Essex.

Tomorrow
Christmas Carol Concert, St Mary's Church, Bampton, Oxfordshire, 7.30pm.

Soviet Stage Design, 1917-1982, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends today).

Drawing in Air: Sculptors' drawings, Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton; Sat 10 to 5 (ends today).

Stonemasonry and drawing by Rosemary Terry and Peter Ling, E. M. Flint Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall Sat 10 to 4.45 (ends today).

Constructed Images: Contemporary works, City Museum and Art Gallery, Victoria Street, Worcester; Sat 9.30 to 5 (ends today).

MUSIC

Organ recital by Michael Smith, 1.10, and Concert by Huddersfield Choral Society, 7.30, St David's Hall, Cardiff.

Concert by Birmingham Bach Society, Birmingham Cathedral, 7.30.

Concert by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, with Roger Norrington, and Philip Fowke, Wessex Hall, Poole Arts Centre, Bournemouth, 7.30.

General

Bath Postcard and Stamp Fair, Mansvers Street, Church Hill, Bath, 10 to 4.30.

Ceremony of the lighting of the Christmas Tree, The Precinct, Bolton, 3.30.

Annual Christmas Fair, Guildhall, Bath, 10.30 to 3.30.

Tomorrow

Last chance to see Sculptures by Giulio Cinaglia at the Barbican Sculpture Court at the Barbican Centre, EC2; Sun noon to dusk (ends today).

Summer Days - winter exhibition by members of the West Oxfordshire Arts Association, the Arts Centre, Town Hall, Bampton, Oxon; Sun 2.30 to 4.30 (ends today).

Taunton Cider - the history of the English drinking mug, exhibition at the Corinium Museum Chelcester Sun 2 to 5 (ends today).

MUSIC

Concert by London Pro Musica, Midland Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, 7.30.

A Christmas Carol Concert, Julian Lloyd Webber (cello), St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

General

Antiques Fair, Winter Gardens, Weston-Super-Mare, 10.30 to 4.30.

Roads

Midlands: A429: Roadworks on Wellesbourne - Stow road at Halford, Warwickshire. A38: Two-way traffic on one carriageway on Burton Upon Trent bypass, Staffordshire, diversion at Clay Mills.

A446: Roadworks at junction with A4091 at Moxhall Island, or Meriden, until 3 pm tomorrow, southbound carriageway closed for removal of traffic management on M1 (junction 17) Coventry turn. Diversion: Dunchurch A45 Woodon A43 to M1 (junction 16) - Deventry/Northington.

North: A637: Bailey bridge in use on Barnsley Road between Darnley and Barnley, traffic lights, delays expected. A6110: Roadworks along existing carriageway on Leeds southern ring road, delays. A17: Two-way traffic on one carriageway between Fairburn and Micklefield, West Yorkshire.

South: A83: Single-line traffic, lights 24 hours 4 miles south of Brighton, A83: Single lane traffic south of Blair Atholl.

Information supplied by AA

Anniversaries

Cesar Franck was born at Liège, 1822. Deaths: Alfred Nobel, industrialist and founder of the Nobel prizes, San Remo, 1896; Sir Joseph Hooker, botanist, Sunningdale, Berkshire, 1911; Luigi Prandelli, dramatist and poet, Nobel laureate 1934, Rome, 1936. Abdication of Edward VIII and accession of George VI, 1936.

TOMORROW
Births: Sir David Brewster, physicist, Jedburgh, 1781; Hector Berlioz, La Côte-Saint-André, 1803; Alfred de Musset, poet, Paris, 1810; Robert Koch, bacteriologist, Clausen, Germany, 1843.

In the garden

Birds are desperate in frosty times so if you put out food and water for them they may helpfully do less damage to the buds of our fruit trees and bushes, as well as ornamental trees and shrubs. In gardens where there are many finches, tits and sparrows it would pay to spray the trees and bushes with a bird repellent based on aluminium ammonium sulphate.

Pigeons seem to be on the increase in some parts and can wreck a planting of winter brassicas. Large-mesh plastic netting is available to protect these crops; the ordinary 'in net' we use for soft fruit is not suitable as snow will not fall through it.

It also pays to spray Christmas trees with an anti-desiccant such as Secon to prevent needle drop; also coat evergreens like ivy to prevent shrivelling. It is wise also to spray recently planted evergreen shrubs, and walledowns with Secon to reduce damage by bitter drying winds.

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The papers

The Washington Post says that the meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva "gives no assurance at all regarding the stability of next year's oil prices. Opec says that its prices will remain unchanged into 1984, that, you will recognize, is a hope rather than a promise. Opec is wishing itself a happy and prosperous new year. Since two of Opec's members, Iran and Iraq, are at war with each other, the atmosphere in the meetings is hardly conducive to trust and unity. Among Opec's customers, there is a tendency to celebrate its internal troubles and to see in them the prospect of steadily declining oil prices... a more likely consequence is continuing uncertainty and turbulence in the oil markets. The United States and Western Europe may yet have reason to regret that they invested so much of their attention and hard diplomatic energy in one Middle Eastern war - the one in Lebanon - to the neglect of the other."

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Weather

A cold northerly airstream will cover Britain. Most districts will have wintry showers, chiefly in northern and eastern districts where icy roads and drifting of any snow will occur in strong winds.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, E, W Midlands: Sunny and clear periods, perhaps a few wintry showers; frost and icy roads later; winds NW fresh to strong decreasing later; max temp 3 to 5C (37 to 41F).

East Angles, E, central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Frequent snow showers, bright intervals; icy roads, drifting; frost; winds N backing NW strong to gale, moderating later; max temp 2 to 3C (36 to 37F).

Channel Islands, SW, NW England, S, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Scattered showers, drying our later, sunny or clear periods; frost and icy roads; winds NW backing W fresh decreasing light later; max temp 4 to 5C (39 to 41F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Continuing cold and changeable with overnight frosts.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind N strong to gale, backing NW moderate to fresh; sea very rough, becoming slight to moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NE strong to gale, decreasing moderates or fresh; sea very rough becoming slight to moderate.

Sun rises: 7.54am **Sun sets:** 3.52pm
Moon rises: 12.20pm **Moon sets:** 9.36pm
First Quarter December 12.

TOMORROW
Sun rises: 7.56am **Sun sets:** 3.52pm
Moon rises: 12.39pm **Moon sets:** 10.45pm
First Quarter Tomorrow.

Lighting-up time

TODAY
London 4.22 pm to 7.28 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.35 am
Edinburgh 4.09 pm to 8.03 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.44 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.41 am

TOMORROW
London 4.22 pm to 7.27 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.35 am
Edinburgh 4.09 pm to 8.04 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.45 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.42 am

Charity card shops

For a list of shops run by the Charity Christmas Card Council, which represents 80 national charities, write to the Council, 100, Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NG (enclosing a fee).

The 1959 Group of Charities sells cards in aid of 20 major charities from temporary locations in many towns and cities throughout the country. A full list is available from the 1959 Group of Charities address as for CCCC, above, marking your enquiry and see "provincial shops".

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	1.64	1.54
Austria Sch	28.95	27.35
Belgium Fr	83.50	79.50
Canada \$	8.85	8.78
Denmark Kr	14.82	14.12
Finland Mk	8.73	8.33
France Fr	12.30	11.80
Germany DM	4.08	3.89
Greece Dr	161.00	151.80
Hongkong \$	11.50	10.90
India Rupee	13.30	12.5
Italy Lira	2460.00	2350.00
Japan Yen	351.00	333.00
Netherlands Gld	4.59	4.36
Norway Kr	11.60	11.00
Portugal Escudo	195.00	185.00
Spain Ptas	1.90	1.67
Sweden Kr	233.50	223.50
Switzerland Fr	12.00	11.40
Switzerland Fr	3.20	3.12
USA \$	1.47	1.42
Yugoslavia Dnr	216.00	206.00

Rates for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Retail Price Index: 340.7. London: The FT Index closed down 3.1 at 757.1.

Around Britain

	Sun Rain	Mon	Tues
Scarborough	- 2.15	8 48	Rain
Sheffield	- 2.45	8 48	Rain
London	2.3	7 11	Sunny am
Cardiff	1.5	7 11	Shower
Manchester	1.5	7 11	Rain pm
Birmingham	- 2.4	11 32	Rain
Edinburgh	0.7	11 32	Rain
Glasgow	0.8	11 32	Rain
Liverpool	0.1	11 32	Rain pm
Newcastle	0.1	11 32	Rain pm
Nottingham	0.1	11 32	Rain
Southampton	0.1	11 32	Rain
Swansea	0.1	11 32	Rain
Wolverhampton	0.1	11 32	Rain
Wrexham	0.1	11 32	Rain
Walsley-on-Haze	2.3	37	3.19

Abroad

Abroad: c, cloud; dr, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; a, mist; m, snow.

	C	F	G	F	S	S	S	S
Algeria	12	54	12	54	12	54	12	54
Amman	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Athens	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Bahia	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Bombay	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Buenos Aires	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Calcutta	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Cairo	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Canton	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Cebu	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Colon	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Hankow	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Hong Kong	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Kobe	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
London	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Lyons	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Manila	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Medan	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64
Osaka	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64